

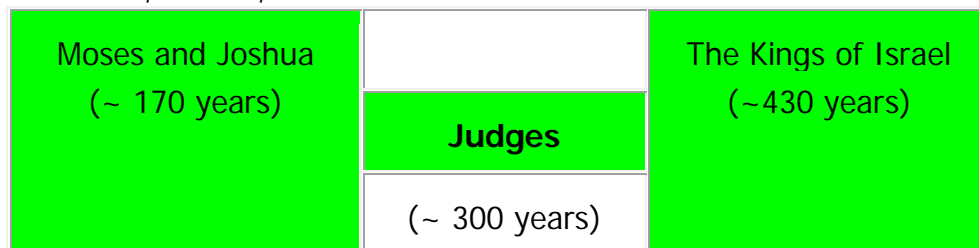
A compromised Faith

To get rid of the Baals you must first get rid of the Canaanites

Judges 1 & 2

1. First some background.

- a. The book of Judges forms the bridge between the partial Conquest of the Land under Joshua and the establishment of the Monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon.
- b. The land promised to Israel was the land of Canaan and its inhabitants were called Canaanites.
 - The term Canaanites is a general term and often included all the people that God told Israel to remove from the land, such as the Amorites, Hittites , Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.



- c. The first two chapters of Judges set the stage for the remainder of the book.
- d. They present a pattern, both of victorious conquest as well as of crushing defeat.
- e. We see a downward slide that leads Israel into compromise, sin, and finally bondage to their enemies.
- f. Along with the Canaanites came the Baals
- g. The book of Judges illustrates the Disastrous Effects of Compromise.
 - The Israelites had been told to take the land and to completely wipe out all of the inhabitants. But because they did not obey this command, they were seduced into worshiping the false gods of the people of the land, and this led to their oppressive bondage.
(Exodus 23:22-24)
- h. The book of Judges also records Israel's cycle of sin - Judges 2:18-19

Note: Sin never takes us by surprise. It is the product of wrong thinking, wrong actions, and bad company.

Have you ever heard yourself saying?

- It just happened
- I never meant for things to go that far
- I thought I had it under control
- I don't know what happened
- Everything just seemed to be going so well
- I just seem to be drifting away

2. Israel had previously crossed the Jordan and defeated many of the inhabitants of Canaan but not all of them. They still had work to do.

a. God had already spoken to Israel through Moses about what they should do when they entered the Promised Land. - Exodus 23:22-24

Israel had 3 things to do:

- Obey God
- Do not worship their gods
- Utterly destroy their gods.

b. Before his death, Joshua challenged Israel to be obedient to God and complete the task of taking possession of the land. - Joshua 18:1-3

- Joshua successfully brought Israel into the Promised Land but at the time of his death, not all the tribes had taken possession of their inheritance.

c. And now in the book of Judges, a great start - Judges 1: 1-3

- The people of Israel inquired of the Lord
- Judah was the tribe God called to leadership (Genesis 49:10)
- God called Israel to possess the land
- One of the first steps for Israel to do was to drive the Canaanites out of the land.

Chapter 1 & 2

3. Initial victory.

a. Judah had some victories over the Canaanites and Perizzites. They captured Adoni-Bezek, as well as they took some Canaanite cities. - Judges 1:4-10

- Judah went up first and defeated the Perizzites and the Canaanites living in the Negeb and Hebron and he fought against Jerusalem and captured it.

Note: Cutting off of the thumbs makes it near impossible to work with your hands and cutting off of the big toes makes walking difficult. Therefore, Adoni-bezek was reduced to a state of dependency on others.

- b. Caleb & Othniel (from the tribe of Judah) were also victorious
Judges 1:12-13

Note: Othniel is the first of the Judges.

Note: Caleb's father Jephunneh is referred to as a Kenizzite (Numbers 32:12, Joshua 14:6,14). However, he is from the tribe of Judah (Numbers 13:6) and not descended from Esau's grandson Kenaz (Genesis 36:11).

- Caleb's defeat of the three sons of Anak - Judges 1:20
- This was significant. The sons of Anak were giants, part of the Nephilim, and were the main reason why Israel didn't enter in when they first spied out the land. (Num 13:28,33, Deut 2:10)
- The sons of Anak were Kenizzites, descendants of Esau. (Genesis 36:15) and were one of the peoples that lived in the land that God had promised to Israel (Genesis 15:18-21).
- Caleb's faith never wavered in the 45 years it took him to get to this point. - Joshua 14:10-12

4. The command was to drive the Canaanites out from the land

a. The term Canaanite not only referred to the inhabitants of the land, it also represented their sinful lifestyle of idolatry.

b. Judah (and Simeon - Judges 1:3, Joshua 19:9) had some initial success (Judges 1:3-19a) but stopped when they got to the chariots of iron – Judges 1:19

- The LORD was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had iron chariots.

If the lord was with them, how is it they were unable to drive out the people from the plains?

- Judah didn't win because of the bravery of its men or because of a great strategy.

Judah won because they trusted the LORD to give them victory.

- What is more real to us today, the "iron chariots" you must face each day or the power of God?
- Judah (and Simeon) failed to complete the job. It is not good enough to start, we must finish what God has called us to do.

Compare to:

- ❖ God's instruction given to Saul from Samuel (1 Samuel 15)
- ❖ Jesus' instruction to Peter (Matthew 14:22-33)
- ❖ God's instruction given to Naaman from Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-14)
- The book of Judges shows us the disastrous consequences when we stop short of full obedience to God. - Romans 8:37, 1 Corinthians 10:13

But what about the "iron chariots"? Judah had to deal with iron chariots? And you have to deal with Iron Chariots:

[the iron chariots are the circumstances you face in life that would be impossible for you to address without God]

- ❖ Waking up each morning with physical pain
- ❖ Living with an unbelieving spouse
- ❖ That struggle in your life that people tell you to just get over it.

God is more than able to give His people victory over any and all iron chariots. - Judges 4:13-15

c. Joseph's victory - Judges 1:22-25

- Joseph attained some level of victory by depending on a man from Bethel to lead them into the city in exchange for the lives of his family.

And now the last 7 (Joshua 18:2)

d. Simeon received his inheritance with Judah (Judges 1:3, Joshua 19:9)

e. Benjamin's response (Judges 1:21)

- The Benjamites failed to remove the Jebusites and instead, the Jebusites ended up living with them.

f. Manasseh's response - Judges 1:27-28

- Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements
- Even when Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor rather than drive them out.

- Israel thought they could manage their sin.
- When we keep sin close we don't enslave it but we become slaves to it.
- g. Ephraim's response -Judges 1:29
- Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer
 - Ephraim allowed the Canaanites to live there among them.
- h. Zebulun's response -Judges 1:30
- Zebulun did not drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron or Nahalol
 - The Canaanites continued to live among them
 - But instead they used them as forced labor.
- i. Asher's response - Judges 1:31 -32
- Asher did not drive out those living in Acco or Sidon or Ahlab or Aczib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob
 - And the people of Asher lived among the Canaanite.
- j. Naphtali's response (Judges 1:33)
- Naphtali did not drive out those living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath
 - The Naphtalites also lived among the Canaanite who used them as forced labor
 - Did you know 'who' you are 'living' with?
 - ❖ What ideas do you entertain in your family?
 - ❖ What ideas do you expose your family to through TV, radio, books, or the company you keep?
 - ❖ If I went to your car, what song would I hear on your radio?
 - ❖ What about the influence that eastern religion and mysticism have on us?
- k. Dan's response (Judges 1:34)
- The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain.
 - The Danites were confined by the Amorites.
 - Though given an inheritance like all the other tribes, Dan didn't seem to even have the desire to fight for it.

Note: The 7 tribes that Joshua spoke about (Joshua 18:2) included Issachar but did not include Ephraim or Manasseh.

- l. The progression from Judah to Dan
- Judah, Simeon, Joseph defeated the Canaanites but were not completely faithful

to the full command.

- Benjamin, Manasseh, and Ephraim failed to defeat the Canaanites and allowed them to live with them.
- Zebulun and Naphtali failed to defeat the Canaanites and used them as forced labor (made them a part of their economy).
- Asher and Naphtali failed to defeat the Canaanites and the scripture says THEY lived with the Canaanites.
- Dan gave up without a fight.

5. What does this say to us?

- a. As Christians today we face Satan, the World and our own sinful nature.

Do you ever feel like you have compromised you faith:

- Like Judah wanting to gain victory, but find the enemy 'iron willed'?
- Like Dan, giving up immediately allowing the enemy to live in the areas the Lord had planned for him
- By scratching out a Christian life in the unproductive hill country and not taking your inheritance in the plains where you are meant to be?

- b. Recognize that we become who we hangout with. Their values become our values. Their speech becomes our speech.

- c. Do you not realize that "*in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us*" - Romans 8:37

6. There are three main statements that get repeated in Judges Chapter 1

- a. The tribes 'did not drive out' their enemies. (Judges 1:21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 33)
- b. Having not driven them out, they thought they might as well carry on and simply live along side them. (Judges 1:21, 27, 29, 30, 32, & 33).
- c. Instead of driving them out, they would keep them under their control and make slaves and forced labor of them. (Judges 1:28, 30, 33, & 35)

It was however a Mistake for Israel to keep them around even as forced labor.

7. Israel did not plan to disobey God or follow other idols or gods.

- a. They believed they were strong enough to handle the enemy in their camp and so they lived among them.

- b. But the result of this was they abandoned God and went after idolatry.
Judges 2:11-13.

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- c. God has commanded us... Do not compromise with the enemy. II Corinthians 6:14-18
- d. Jesus was clear in his words on this subject - Matthew 18:8-9
- e. Israel failed to drive out the Inhabitants of the Land.
- When you have weeds in your yard, there is one of three things you can do.
 - ❖ Pull them out, roots and all.
 - ❖ Cut the weeds off at ground level. (Removing the visible parts only)
 - ❖ Ignore them and hope they go away or die on their own.
 - Weeds prevent us from thriving, they choke us. - Mathew 13:7, 13:22
 - We all have times in our life where we need to battle weeds:
 - ❖ Activities, sports, TV
 - ❖ The Internet, facebook, YouTube, or foxnews.com
Do we allow ourselves to be seduced by the images.
 - ❖ The latest fad
 - ❖ Our favorite gadgets: iPhone, Galaxy IV, or Blackberry.
 - ❖ What about our unsaved friends? Are we with them to evangelize or to fellowship?

8. A pattern of failure

- a. God did not overlook their disobedience. - Judges 2:1-3
- b. We have NO excuses for our disobedience - Romans 1:18-20.

9. But this was a generation that didn't know God - Judges 2:10

- a. Their rebellion led to open Idolatry. - Judges 2:11-12
- b. Disobedience is rebellion and rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23)
- c. Idolatry is an indication of disobedience or rebellion in your life.

Is there idolatry in America today?

- TV, Movie stars, Sports figures, & money
- America, Guns, Freedom, and free speech

- Our physical image
- d. Israel began to worship the Baalim and the Ashtaroth (Judges 2:13).
- e. "syncretism." - The mixture of true religion and false religion
 - the attempted reconciliation or union of different or opposing principles, practices, or parties, as in philosophy or religion.
- f. The modern term for syncretism is "pluralism - a theory that there is more than one basic substance or principle
- g. Another word for it today is "Tolerance"
- h. And so we lazily drift to the tune of the world ignorant of the Word of God. How do you decide on:
 - Raising your children?
 - Choosing what home or car to buy?
 - How to adorn yourself?

10. Final thoughts

- a. Are you in a cycle of sin?
 - Sensuality, anger, gossip, greed, unforgiveness, drugs
- b. How much longer will you remain a slave to your sinful ways?
- c. How many more around you must die before you step off the cycle?
- d. How much longer will you test God's patience?
- e. To get rid of the Baals you must first get rid of the Canaanites
- f. Repent now and separate your selves.
- g. Christ bore the wrath of God for the elect so that we would not have to remain slaves of our sinful desires.