



THE JUDGES

June 6, 2021
“Introduction – The
Endless Cycle”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for preserving this ancient text that tells us the story of Israel's Judges. We thank you for all the heroic men and women who have served you and advanced your Kingdom. Father, today we pray that you would give us the courage to be used by you. Help us to inspire faith in others and to remind them that the victory has already been won. Let us influence an entire generation for the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Judges 1:27, 29-33 (NIV)

27 But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land. 29 Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, but the Canaanites continued to live there among them. 30 Neither did Zebulun drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron or Nahalol, so these Canaanites lived among them, but Zebulun did subject them to forced labor. 31 Nor did Asher drive out those living in Akko or Sidon or Ahlab or Akzib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob. 32 The Asherites lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land because they did not drive them out. 33 Neither did Naphtali drive out those living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath; but the Naphtalites too lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, and those living in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath became forced laborers for them.

Judges 2:1-3, 6-10 (NIV)

The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, 2 and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? 3 And I have also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.’”

6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. 7 The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. 9 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

INTRODUCTION

God spent forty years preparing the Israelites to go into the Promised Land. The problem for God was not getting the people out of Egypt, it was getting Egypt out of the people. When the time was right, God commanded his people to drive out the inhabitants in the land. Unfortunately, they did not obey this command and it eventually led to idolatry. Also, after the first generation of Israelites in the promised land died, the people became spiritually complacent. The disobedience and spiritual complacency led to an endless cycle of problems. Today we see the same cycle in our lives, churches and nation. So, what can we do to avoid this cycle.

In order to avoid spiritual complacency, we need to stay connected with God. Through our spiritual disciplines God needs to be first in our lives. And in order to stop the consequences of spiritual complacency in our homes, churches and community we need spiritual leaders. This week determine where God is calling you to lead spiritually – the home, the church or the community. Then step up and lead. Spiritual revival starts with you and me.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Where you familiar with the Book of Judges before this series? What are your thoughts on the book?
- 2) Was there ever a time in your life that you were disobedient to God's command and it led to problems? What did you learn from that experience?
- 3) How do you invest spiritually in the next generation?
- 4) Who are the spiritual leaders that made a difference in your spiritual journey?
- 5) Proverbs 12:26 reminds us that the people with whom we surround ourselves have such an impact on the people we become. Discuss?

FINAL APPLICATION

Where do you feel God is calling you to lead spiritually – the home, the church, the community etc.?
What is one step you can take to be that spiritual leader?