

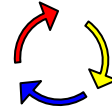
Judges Chapter 1

Back ground: A continuation of the history that began in Joshua.

1. This book gets its name from the 12 men and the one woman who were “Judges” over Israel between the death of Joshua and the time of Samuel, a period of 350-400 years give or take.
2. Probably written by Samuel the prophet / judge of Israel, but we don’t really know for sure.

3. Describing 7 cycles:

- The nation serving God.
- Doing evil.
- Forsaking God.
- Following their own way, pleasure.
- Sold into slavery, depression, and war.
- Crying out to God.
- Turning to God.
- Repenting to God.
- Judge raised up.
- Delivered.



Proverbs 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

- The final verse of this book seems to describe the gist of this book:

Judges 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

- There is however a redeeming quality to this book:

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

- Ehud was a left handed man, the left hand thought of as being weaker than the right.
- Shamgar uses an ox goad to kill 600 men of the enemy, a rather simple weapon.
- Deborah was a member of the “weaker” sex.
- Gideon and 300 men marched against an army of 120,000.

Sub-plot: God’s faithfulness, love, and mercy. God using foolish men for His purposes.

V: 1 The children of Israel inquire of God, presumably through the High Priest which is Phinehas, the son of Eleazar.

- Remember they had the “Urim & Thummim” – “Lights and Perfections” – stones in a pouch worn by the High Priest – “yes” and “no” answers to their questions.

V: 2 The Lord responds that the tribe of Judah shall go out first against the Canaanites, they have been given the victory.

- Judah means “praise” – we can praise him before the battle, because the victory is won.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

V: 3 Judah turns around and asks Simeon to accompany them; at first glance this doesn’t seem un-reasonable yet it is the first hint of compromise – Judah was told to go out and that they’d been given the victory.

- No mention from the Lord about Simeon, if God has given Judah the victory what do they need Simeon for?

Galatians 3:3 “Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

- They are deviating away from God’s Word:

Joshua 23:6 “Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the Law of Moses, that ye turn not aside there from to the right hand or to the left.”

V: 4 Killed 10,000 men in Bezek. Roughly the same amount of casualties suffered during the 1st day of the D-Day invasion during WWII.

V: 5 Adonai = Lord, the Lord of Bezek, Bezek = lightning.

V: 6-7 Disabling Adonaibezek from being able to wage war, without thumbs or big toes you cannot grasp a sword, run, or plant your feet.

- Adonaibezek knows he had it coming having done so to 70 other kings, he also sees the hand of God in it:

Galatians 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ^{8a}For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption...”

- Sowing to the flesh; hatred, malice, envying, jealousy, strife... then we should shudder at what we will reap – corruption.
- God’s word doesn’t need to be a terror in this regard:

Galatians 6:8b "... but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

- Sewing: kindness, gentleness, peace – the result is life everlasting.
- Reaping is always done in an exponential fashion, never 1 for 1. 1 apple seed results in a tree that bears many apples.
- Simply killing Adonaibezek in obedience to God's word would really hinder his ability to wage war also.

V: 8 They conquered and burned Jerusalem, but did not occupy it, it was subsequently re-occupied or re-taken by the Jebusites who remained there until David conquered the city.

V: 9-15 The Tribe of Judah turns towards the South, towards Hebron and Debir.

V: 10 They slew Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi – Anakim, giants, sons of Anak; taking Hebron.

V: 11-15 Repeating the taking of Debir by Othniel and receiving Caleb's daughter Achsah as a prize for this victory.

- She must have been beautiful to offered in such a way as a prize and an honor to the man who would marry into Caleb's family.

[We see a typology here in Caleb:](#) (Repeated from Joshua Ch. 15)

1. When Joshua who is a type of Jesus first came to the promised land – he was accompanied by Caleb, a type of the Holy Spirit.
2. Caleb raised his daughter Achsah, preparing a bride that he eventually gave away to the one who would overcome and conquer.
3. The Holy Spirit is preparing the bride for the groom who is victorious over sin, death, and the world.
4. Who got the bride? Othniel: "God is powerful". The city of Kir-jath-sepher was later re-named Debir, which means "back" or "back room" which was eventually the name used for the "back room" of the temple or the Holy of Holies. So the one who was able to enter into the Holy of Holies victoriously got the bride.
5. Caleb gave not only a field, gifts for the bride and groom, but also the upper and lower springs – from which flowed living water.
 - What is the point of this particular story being repeated at this time? I'm not sure if it has as much to do with the event itself, the taking of the city as it does the character of the man.

- We're starting to see a pattern that will continue through the book of Judges; which is the lack of obedience, partial obedience, a prevailing attitude about the Word of God somewhat like "I'm keeping most of it, or the bigger parts, the important parts – but not all of it."
- Picking and choosing what parts of God's word to obey, and what parts to set aside and as that is being laid out before us – we have the re-introduction of Caleb.

Numbers 14:24 "But My servant Caleb, because he had another Spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."

- Some might come up with the excuse as maybe some of us have at times; "there's no way we can really be obedient to everything God's word says" – "there's no reason to be unreasonable about all of this, God will understand..."
- Caleb followed the Lord fully, did everything God called him to do, was obedient to God's word – and by the power of the Spirit so can we!

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..."

V: 16 The Kenites, remember Jethro the priest of Midian – Moses' father in law, their descendants were nomadic herdsman.

- At one point they had been invited to stay with the children of Israel and had declined. Now they are back, staying at the city of palms which is Jericho, joining with the tribe of Judah headed towards the south towards Arad. **(Pictures)**.

V: 17-19 The tribes of Judah and Simeon combine to begin taking their territory, and just as God said, He goes before them giving them the victory.

V: 19b "... *they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.*"

Why was this? 2 Possible reasons.

1. They didn't even try, too scared to go out to them.

Deuteronomy 20:1 "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

2. Simply the result of disobedience to God's word, and He said He would not drive out their enemies if this was the case.

Joshua 23:11-13 “¹¹Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God. ¹²Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: ¹³Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your god hath given you.”

- It was an issue of focus: chariots or God?

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

V: 20 Caleb received Hebron, and he was victorious over the Anakim.

- Again a reminder that these things are possible.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

V: 21 The Benjamites could not drive the Jebusites out of Jerusalem – they remained until king David took the city.

V: 22-26 The house of Joseph meaning Ephraim and Manasseh, or one of the two.

“The Lord was with them.” – very important!

- They sent spies to “descry” – reconnoiter, spy out the city.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

- Often times there was the main entrance to a city, which was usually fortified; then there was sometimes a secret entrance which was much less fortified, Hezekiah’s tunnel is one such example, there was another at Megiddo, so there may have been one at Beth-El.
- The spies cut a deal with a man leaving the city to show he and his family mercy; later this same man goes and builds a city and calls it “Luz” after the first.
- Again this contradicts the explicit instruction from the word of God:

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 “¹⁶But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: ¹⁷But thou shalt utterly destroy them, namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: ¹⁸That they teach

you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.”

- This was intended to be a protection, which they are now setting aside.

V: 27-28 Manasseh even for their great size did not drive out the inhabitants of the land. Judah couldn't drive them out, Manasseh simply didn't drive them out, they opted for tribute – financial gain.

- Partial obedience is still disobedience.
- Put them to tribute: “if we compromise or ignore this one area of God's Word, then we can get ahead financially...”

V: 29-36 Neither did Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, or Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of the land, they lived among them.

- The Amorites “forced” Dan back into the mountains and would not suffer or allow them to come into the valley.

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- The Canaanites, Amorites, Hivites, and the rest are a type or analogy of sin.

Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

- If we don't deal with the sin in our lives in a biblical way, it will overtake us and eventually kill us.

Ephesians 4:27 “Neither give place to the devil.”

- We have to be careful not to make allowances for sin in our lives; in this battle sin and righteousness are battling for mastery in our lives, having been given the victory we need not surrender any ground to the enemy!
- How do we gain victory over sin? Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ; through confession and repentance.

The first step the new generation took toward defeat and slavery was neglecting the word of God, and generations ever since have made that same mistake.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 “³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

Ref.Judges.01