

Judges 1

Introduction

The "judges" were not like judges today – sitting in a courtroom, presiding over a trial, etc.

-Rather, they were military and government leaders

Why were they not called kings? Because God was the only king of Israel down until Saul was appointed king

The judges were not elected or in any other way chosen by the people

-Rather, they were chosen by God – he would usually demonstrate his selection by some supernatural event

They did not legislate for the people – they only tried to enforce God's laws

The pattern in the book of *Judges*: apostasy – slavery – prayer and repentance – deliverance from the enemy

Reason for this cycle – Read Judges 2.10

-Result: **Read Judges 17.6, 21.25**

Possible authors: Phinehas, Ezra, Samuel (according to the Talmud), Hezekiah

The reason for the violence is the fact that every person did what he thought was right

-But let us remember that even in very evil times, there were still some righteous people left (the judges themselves, as well as Ruth and Boaz – same time period)

This book is in very sharp contrast with the books of *Joshua* and *Ruth*

Judges 1.1-7

V1 – Joshua had died

-**Was a successor appointed to take the place of Joshua?** No

-**Where did the people go for advice?** Directly to God (probably through Phinehas)

-**Question?** Which tribe should attack the Canaanites first?

V2 – **Answer from God?** Judah

-**Why Judah?** The tribe the Messiah would come through – the scepter would not depart from Judah (*Gen. 49.10*) – the leading tribe

V3 – **"Deal" between Judah and Simeon?** You help me, and I'll help you

V4 – They fought the Canaanites and Perizzites

-**How many of the enemy were killed?** 10,000

V5 – **King of the enemies?** Adoni-bezek

V6 – **What did the Israelites do to him?** Cut off his thumbs and big toes

-We would see this as great violence today (a lawsuit from the ACLU!)

-**Significance of this?** He could no longer carry a spear or sword and could not walk properly

V7 – **But what did Adoni-bezek confess?** He had done the same thing to 70 other kings

- He reaped what he had sown
- He died in Jerusalem (maybe from the amputations?)
- Notice the cycle of violence was already starting

Judges 1.8-10

V 8 – What city was captured? Jerusalem

-**Significance of this capture?** It became the capital city of Jewish nation (site of temple, crucifixion of Jesus, where the Lord's church started, etc.)

V 9-10 – Further conquests by the tribe of Judah

Note: *Judges 1.8-2.10* appears to be a brief review of the conquests already described in *Joshua 10-24*

Joshua 1.11-15

V 11 – The next attack is reviewed

V 12 – What offer did Caleb make? Whoever captures Kiriath-sepher will get to marry Caleb's daughter Achsah

V 13 – Who got the daughter? Othniel (cousin)

V 14-15 – What did Achsah want? A field and some springs of water

Joshua 1.16-21

V 16 – Whom had the Kenites descended from? Jethro (Reuel), the father-in-law of Moses

-The Kenites were nomads and knew the wilderness very well – they accompanied the Israelites from Mt. Sinai to the Promised Land (See *Numbers 10.31*)

-Another group outside of Israel was saved – very interesting (Gentiles were being brought into the nation of Israel)

V 17 – What city was captured next? Hormah

V 18 – Three Philistine cities were captured: Gaza, Askelon, Ekron

V 19 – Was Judah successful in driving out all the Canaanites? No – the enemy had iron chariots

V 20 – What town was given to Caleb? Hebron

V 21 – What did the tribe of Benjamin fail to do? Drive out all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

Judges 1.22-26

V 22 – What two tribes made up "Joseph"? Manasseh and Ephraim

-When was the last time we read of Bethel? The men of Bethel helped the men of Ai in the battle against the Israelites

-Original name for Bethel? Luz (*Gen. 28.19*)

-This is where Jacob has his dream (angels ascending and descending) – he renamed it Bethel (the "House of God")

-Picture of the ruins of Bethel – See *Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, I, 533

V 23-24 – What did the men of Joseph do? Got a man from Bethel to show them the entrance of the city

V 25 - What did he get in return? He and his family were saved from the destruction of the city

V 26 – What did the man do? Went to the land of Hittites and built a new city named Luz

-Information on Hittites – See *Beacon Bible Commentary*, II, 115-116

Judges 1.27-30

V 27-28 – Almost exactly parallel to *Joshua 17.11-13*

-Manasseh failed to take the city of Beth-shean

-When the Israelites could not destroy a people, what did they do? Made them slaves

V 29 – Ephraim also failed

V 30 - Zebulun also failed

Judges 1.31-36

V 31-32 – Asher also failed to drive out all the pagan people

V 33 – What tribe failed next? Naphtali

V 34 – What tribe failed next? Dan

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