

Judges 2

Judges 2.1-5

V1 – Who delivered a message on behalf of God? An angel (from Gilgal)

-What was God's side of the covenant? He led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and had promised never to abandon the Israelites

V2 - Was this promise conditional or unconditional? Conditional

-Based on what? That they would not make any covenants with pagan people and would not bow down to altars

-God's promises to us are conditional even today – his grace is based on our faith and obedience

-Had the Israelites kept their part of the covenant? No

V3 – Therefore, what had God done? He had not driven out all the pagan people from the land

V4 – Reaction of the people at this news? They wept (they were sorry, but not sorry enough)

V5 – What did they do? Sacrificed animals to God

-New name for the place? Bochim ("weepers")

Joshua 2.6-10

V6 – Joshua had died (*Joshua 24.29*) and he had sent the people to their own lands

V7 – Describe the faithfulness of the people. OK as long as Joshua and the elders he had trained were alive

-But gradually that generation began to pass away

-Those were the ones who had seen the acts of God

V8 – How old was Joshua when he died? 110

V9 – In what territory was he buried? Ephraim

V10 – Very important verse – What could be said about the next generation? They did not know God

-Maybe Joshua's generation did a poor job of teaching their children

-It is not good enough for us to save ourselves – we need to think in terms of the next generation of people at our congregation

Joshua 2.11-15

V11 – What did the younger generation start doing? Serving the Baals

-Baal was a pagan god – his worship involved kissing the idol (statue), having sexual relations to bring about fertility of the land (1 Kings 14.24), and child sacrifice (*Jeremiah 19.5*)

-The plural form may indicate many local forms of this pagan worship

-More information on Baal – See *Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, I, 432

V 12 – **Whom did the Israelites forsake?** The one true God of Israel (who had freed them from slavery) – they bowed down to Baal

-Reaction of God? Anger

V 13 – Ashtaroth –the goddess of love and fertility (forerunner of Greek goddess Aphrodite and the Roman goddess Venus)

-Her worship included prostitution

V 14 – **What did God do?** Allowed them to be plundered; some were sold to their enemies as slaves

-They could no longer defeat their enemies

V 15 – They were "severely distressed"

-Heb. 10:31 – It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Judges 2.16-19

V 16 – The beginning of a cycle we see throughout this book

-What did God do? Raised up a "judge" to deliver the people from their enemies

-Remember: a judge was more of a governor, a leader, a champion (not a courtroom judge that we are familiar with today)

V 17 – **Reaction of the people to the judges?** Did not listen

-They quickly left the truth and "played the harlot" with pagan gods

-They did not obey God, as their fathers had done

V 18 – **What would God do?** Allow the judge to deliver the people from their oppression

-Why? Because he felt sorry for his people

V 19 – **What would happen when the judge died?** The people would go back into paganism

Judges 2.20-23

V 20 – God would become very angry with the Israelites

V 21 – He would no longer drive out the enemies

V 22 – **What was his purpose?** To test the Israelites to see if they would obey him

V 23 – This started in the days of Joshua

Lessons from this chapter:

1. People can fall away from the faith
2. God's promises are conditional on our obedience.

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