

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

--DEUTERONOMY 6:1-19; 7:1-11; JOSHUA 24:14-28--

### INTRODUCTION:

It has been a while since we have gone through an Old Testament book. This series will take us through two, Judges and Ruth. I look forward to what we will learn about history, about God, and about ourselves through these two books. Neither book names an author, tradition says that Samuel wrote it during the reign of king Saul, before the reign of David. Where these two books fall into history is a little hard to give an exact date, but a conservative date for the events of these two books is from about 1350 B.C. to 1050 B.C.

This morning we will not get into the book of Judges, but by way of introduction I want to look at a couple of passages in Deuteronomy and one in Joshua. These passages will prepare us for Judges giving us an understanding of what took place before Judges began and then we will begin to see the downward spiral in the book of Judges not long after the death of Joshua.

- I. OBEY GOD AND PROSPER (Deuteronomy 6:1-19)
  - a. When God brought Israel out of Egypt, out of slavery, He did so with great \_\_\_\_\_ and mighty \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. In Deuteronomy 6 they have arrived at the Jordan, and they are about to cross over to take \_\_\_\_\_ of the land that God had promised to their forefathers.
  - c. Moses begins to prepare them for this task by telling them again what is \_\_\_\_\_ of them as God's people.
  - d. Moses goes on in verses 4-9 to explain how they are to carry these \_\_\_\_\_ and statutes out.
  - e. Then Moses warns the Israelites not to \_\_\_\_\_ God when they become comfortable in the land.
- II. DISOBEDIENCE AND JUDGMENT (Deuteronomy 7:1-11)
  - a. Moses goes on to \_\_\_\_\_ the people of what will happen if they do not utterly destroy the nations in the land which they are going to possess.

- b. God through Moses reminds the people of Israel that they are a \_\_\_\_\_ people to the Lord their God.
- c. The people of Israel are about to cross over the Jordan and possess the land God had promised to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### III. THE COVENANT RENEWED (Joshua 24:14-28)

- a. In this passage Joshua was about to pass from the scene, he had served the Lord and led the people in successfully \_\_\_\_\_ the land.
- b. The people promise to love, fear and serve the Lord and with Joshua they \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant made with God at Mt. Sinai.

### CONCLUSION:

As we begin to look at the book of Judges, we will find that with God they could have taken the whole land and possessed it for themselves, that was what was promised. They had in faith crossed the Jordan and under the leadership of Joshua had begun to take the land but when he died, they began to falter. In the beginning she tolerated the enemy, then they taxed the enemy or pressed them into servitude, then they began to mix with the enemy, living among them, and in the end, they surrendered to the enemy as they pushed back and put Israel into servitude. What led to this? A loss of focus, they forgot the renewed covenant and were ensnared in the false religions of those around them that they did not completely destroy or drive out. God used those nations to punish the Israelites for their sin. As we will see it was only when God sent deliverers or judges empowered by Him that the Israelites found victory.

As believers we must be careful of this same thing, we must keep our focus on God and obeying His Word. We must beware of settling down with sin, this may begin with tolerating what is happening in the world and soon we find ourselves mixing with the world and trying to blend our Christianity with the world and in the end, we will surrender to the world. When we do this, we miss the blessing of complete dedication and complete victory which is found in complete surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:1-2)