

APOSTASY – PART 2

-JUDGES 2:6-15

INTRODUCTION:

As we get back into the passage that we began two weeks ago in Judges 2 we are going to learn about the apostasy of the nation of Israel. Apostasy has been defined as “the departure from the truth that one professed to have.”* This morning we will see this departure from the truth by the actions of the people of Israel, they depart from the truth about God and the covenant that they had promised to keep. We will learn that this apostasy came in the form of abandoning the God of their fathers and doing evil in the sight of the LORD. Then we will look at the LORD’s response to their apostasy.

I. APOSTASY (Judges 2:10-13)

- a. Two weeks ago, we looked at verse ____ which set the stage for the rest of this passage.
- b. Up until that verse we were told that the people of Israel served the _____ all the days of Joshua and the elders who survived him.
- c. As we come into verses 11-13, the language used of the next generation’s _____ is very strong. (Judges 2:1-5)
- d. You must understand that apostasy is a _____, it is to choose evil over good, to abandon the LORD for something or someone else. (1 Timothy 4:1)

II. ABANDONMENT AND DOING EVIL (Judges 2:11-13)

- a. The word “_____” is the only term strong enough to capture the seriousness and severity of apostasy.
- b. In Genesis 2 the LORD is described as the _____ of human life and being the Creator of human beings, He has the absolute right to distinguish right from wrong and to determine the bounds within which life is to be lived. (Genesis 1-3)
- c. For the Israelites, this evil behavior was even more terrible because for them it was not simply a sin against their Creator,

but they had forsaken or abandoned “*the _____ of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt*” (Judges 2:12a, NASB95).

- d. I find it amazing that evil can nearly always be _____ in some way, at least by those who commit it. (Judges 2:3)
- e. For the Israelites we are told they abandoned the Lord for the “*Baals*”, “*other _____ from among the gods of the peoples who were around them.*” (Judges 2:11-12, NASB95)
- f. What was it that made these gods so _____ to the people of Israel after all that the LORD had done for them?

III. ANGER OF THE LORD (Judges 2:14-15)

- a. As we come to the last two verses of our passage, the last paragraph of this passage we come to the LORD’s _____ to Israel’s apostasy.
- b. From this one paragraph we can learn several things about the _____ of God.
- c. First, we learn that the anger of God is _____.
- d. The second thing we learn from this paragraph is God’s anger is not without _____.
- e. The third thing we learn is that God’s anger is not _____ or unpredictable, it is measured and in complete accord with what He said He would do. (Joshua 24:20)
- f. Fourth, we learn from this paragraph that God’s anger has terrible _____ for those who are the objects of His anger.
- g. The New Testament _____ us of God’s anger in no less graphic terms than the Old Testament. (Romans 1:18-28; Ephesians 2:1-12; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 10:28)
- h. If that is a warning for the world, it is also a warning to those who _____ to be followers of Christ. (Hebrews 10:26-31)
- i. Apostasy is no small matter, it arouses God’s righteous anger, and the consequences that you will experience under His anger are _____.

*Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G., *The Footsteps of the Messiah*. San Antonio, TX : Ariel Press, 1982.

CONCLUSION:

What hope is there for these rebels, for apostates? What hope do we have as the older generation as we see the younger generation teetering on the edge? Our nation has abandoned the Lord, our nation has aroused the Lord's wrath against it, and He has turned us over to our own destruction. What hope is there for a church or a nation that abandons the Lord? What hope or comfort is there for godly parents who see a dearly loved child walk away? We see no hope or comfort in this passage of Scripture, this passage only speaks of apostasy and God's anger. But there is hope, slim perhaps, but real—not here but in this book, we will see another side of God, we will see His compassion and mercy. This is not the end, there is more to Israel's history than is told in these verses and more to God's character than His anger. So those who bear the pain of seeing others abandon the Lord are not alone. You stand with others who suffer with you, you stand with the Lord who knows your pain because it is He who has been abandoned. You must hope in Him, the Lord alone holds the solution for those who have abandoned Him.