

## THE LEGACY OF A GREAT LEADER

--JUDGES 1:1-21--

### INTRODUCTION:

The first chapter of Judges is for us like the preface to the rest of the book. As we come to the first chapter this morning, we come to an event that has changed everything, a great leader has died, a sudden sense of loss, a knowing that change will result from the void created by the death of Joshua. This is what we call a boundary event, Joshua has died. But all is not lost, he has left the nation with a legacy, the impact this man has made on the nation of Israel will move it forward for the next generation. They are in crisis, but there is hope.

### I. THE INFLUENCE OF JOSHUA (Judges 1:1-3)

- a. Even though Israel was in crisis because of the loss of their great leader, not all was lost because Joshua had left a \_\_\_\_\_. (Judges 2:7)
- b. We have all seen what \_\_\_\_\_ can do to a family, there are many reasons that the harmony of a family can be broken.
- c. Joshua as the leader of the people of Israel stood out from others as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. It is not clear from the passage how the Israelites \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, most likely it was at the Tabernacle and through the high priest. (Numbers 27:18-21)
- e. There is one other aspect in these first three verses that again shows us the influence that Joshua's leadership had upon the nation, it too is related to the \_\_\_\_\_ that Joshua sought to have among the people, unifying them as a nation and not just a group of tribes.
- f. Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites in a series of military campaigns had \_\_\_\_\_ the backbone of the Canaanite resistance.
- g. When the Israelites inquired of the Lord who should go up first to fight against the Canaanites? The Lord responded that the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ should go up first.

### II. THE BLESSING OF GOD (Judges 1:4-21)

- a. The godly legacy that Joshua left the nation of Israel was good, but it was not the fundamental cause for the \_\_\_\_\_ that the men of Judah and those associated with them experienced.
- b. Their success was in \_\_\_\_\_, not in their ability, just as Joshua's achievements were never attributed to him but to the God whom he served. (Joshua 23:14)
- c. Within these verses we find two events that show to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of God at a closer range.
- d. The first joint campaign of \_\_\_\_\_ and Simeon was at Bezek, not far from Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 6:2)
- e. What are we as believers to make of this form that God's justice took in this particular case, especially in view of Jesus' command to \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies and do good to them? (Leviticus 24:19-20)
- f. The New Testament clearly forbids \_\_\_\_\_, we are to leave that to the Lord who has appointed governing authority to carry out justice.
- g. The second event in which the author zooms in on is in verses 11-15 and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is more immediately apparent. (Numbers 14:24)
- h. Not everything is \_\_\_\_\_ we see as we come to the end of this passage.

### CONCLUSION:

In closing I want to point out a couple of things that I believe are significant in this passage. First, that Judah was chosen to lead. Jacob in Genesis 49 had predicted that Judah was destined to lead his brothers, to lead the nation of Israel. This begins to happen here, has its outworking in David and eventually the Lord Jesus, the great Son of David.

This passage has been about the legacy of a great man, Joshua had a huge impact on the nation of Israel. As believers we share in an even greater legacy. The church is the legacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we honor Christ and obey His Word, His abundant blessings are evident, and it brings glory to God.