

## GOD'S GRACE – PART 2

### JUDGES 2:16-3:6

#### INTRODUCTION:

Two weeks ago, we began looking at a preview to the rest of the book of Judges, preparing us for the introduction of the first judge. We learned that God in grace would raise up judges to deliver Israel from their severe distress. Israel abused and scorned God's grace by not repenting when He rescued them, but instead turning back to the gods of the Canaanites. Grace that is abused, scorned, and ignored will not go on forever, so this morning we will see the judgment of God announced for Israel's continuous apostasy during this period of their history.

#### III. GRACE SCORNED BRINGS JUDGMENT (Judges 2:20-23)

- a. This morning we begin in verse 20 which brings us back to God's \_\_\_\_\_. (Judges 2:14)
- b. The formal language of verses 20-21 shows us that we must imagine a \_\_\_\_\_ in session but with one difference.
- c. This charge read against the people of Israel, the offense that they have committed is not merely against "the \_\_\_\_\_," it is against the LORD personally.
- d. Verse 21 tells us that the test concerned the "\_\_\_\_\_ which Joshua left when he died..." (Judges 2:21b, NASB95) (Joshua 23:4)
- e. Understand that this failure by Israel was not just a legal failure but a \_\_\_\_\_ one.
- f. The covenant that God had made with the nation of Israel had two basic parts: the first part was \_\_\_\_\_ and the second part was law. (Genesis 13:14-17; Judges 2:1)
- g. The covenant, however, also had a \_\_\_\_\_ aspect to it. (Galatians 3:17-18; Exodus 2:24; Deuteronomy 31:29; Joshua 23:16)
- h. God as the Supreme \_\_\_\_\_ must make a decision concerning the breaking of His covenant by the nation of Israel.

#### IV. FAILING THE TEST (Judges 3:1-6)

- a. As we come into the first six verses of chapter three, they mostly \_\_\_\_\_ what has gone on before.
- b. First, it gives us another reason that God did not drive out all the \_\_\_\_\_ by giving them into the hand of Joshua.
- c. Second, and more important, it tells us of the fatal step that was taken that brought about Israel's slide into \_\_\_\_\_, they intermarried with the nations that they were living among.
- d. Intermarriage would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel throughout the time of the judges and on into the rest of the Old Testament period.

#### CONCLUSION:

The Bible's teaching on this issue is consistent and clear, but how do we apply this when we are told to be light and salt in the world? There is a fine line between being in the world but not of the world, we cannot remove ourselves from the world if we are to be a witness to the world. As we engage with the world, we will become involved in relationships with people that will put us at risk of what Paul was warning us about, we must stay vigilante that we keep our relationship with Christ at the forefront of all our engagement with the world, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Israel failed because of intermarriage. We must be vigilant that we do not do the same in our relationships with those who are of the world. Intermarriage is just one aspect of a more general problem, but since this is the one that is highlighted in this passage its right that we reflect on this issue. Young people, and those who are not married, Satan knows that sexual attraction is a point of vulnerability, and he will use this to try to destroy your witness and testimony. Scripture is clear that marriage with unbelievers is not God's will for us and to take that path is an act of willful disobedience. It is not apostasy, but it may lead to it, as it did in Israel's case. At the very least it will make oneness with your husband or wife impossible, and it will create other difficulties. Do not make finding a husband or wife your first priority, but instead "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" because this is the only way to true fulfillment, whether that includes marriage or not. Judges truly is a text for our times, not only in this but in so many ways.