



- 7th book in the Old Testament
- Between 1398 BC to 1043 BC
- Mostly likely written by the Prophet Samuel
- Snapshot of Israel's spiritual history
- The Hebrew title Judges means "deliverers" or "saviors"

Key Verse:

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Judges 1:1-2 After the death of Joshua, **the Israelites asked the LORD**, "Which tribe should go first to attack the Canaanites?" ²The LORD answered, "Judah, for I have given them victory over the land."

Joshua 23:6-13

Judges 1:4-7 When the men of Judah attacked, the LORD gave them victory over the Canaanites and Perizzites, and they killed 10,000 enemy warriors at the town of Bezek. ⁵While at Bezek they encountered King Adoni-bezek and fought against him, and the Canaanites and Perizzites were defeated. ⁶Adoni-bezek escaped, but the Israelites soon captured him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. ⁷Adoni-bezek said, "I once had seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off, eating scraps from under my table. Now God has paid me back for what I did to them." They took him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Leviticus 18; Deuteronomy 18; Genesis 15:16

1. HALF-HEARTED OBEDIENCE LEADS TO DEFEAT

Judges 1:19 The LORD was with the people of Judah, and they took possession of the hill country. But they failed to drive out the people living in the plains, who had **iron chariots**.

Judges 1:27-28 The tribe of Manasseh failed to drive out the people living in Beth-shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo, and all their surrounding settlements, because **the Canaanites were determined to stay in that region...**

²⁸ **they forced the Canaanites to work as slaves**, but they never did drive them completely out of the land.

Judges 2:1-3 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said to the Israelites, “I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you. ² For your part, you were not to make any covenants with the people living in this land; instead, you were to destroy their altars. **But you disobeyed my command.** Why did you do this? ³ So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a constant temptation to you.”

“The areas we refuse to fully obey God in become areas of defeat.”

2. COMPROMISE LEADS TO BONDAGE

Judges 2:3 So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be **thorns in your sides**, and their gods will be a **constant temptation** to you.”

Judges 2:11-14; Joshua 1:6-8

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” — Ravi Zaccharias

“An idol is anything that promises freedom, power, and happiness apart from God.”

3. SPIRITUAL AMNESIA LEADS TO SPIRITUAL APOSTASY

Judges 2:1 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said to the Israelites, “**I brought you out of Egypt** into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said **I would never break my covenant with you.**”

Judges 2:4-5 When the angel of the LORD finished speaking to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly. ⁵ So they called the place Bokim (which means “weeping”), and they offered sacrifices there to the LORD.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.