

Judges 1.1-21

Blessed are the Brave

Last 4 Sundays Focus on UNITY – We in BICF are ONE in Christ Jesus

He is OUR PEACE – Made us ONE and Together Reconciled us to GOD


One of Themes of BOOK of JUDGES is UNITY

v. 1 the people of Israel inquired of the LORD > United in Seeking HIM

Name ISRAEL occurs more in this Book than any other Book in BIBLE

FIRST Verse Looks BACKWARD / LAST Verse Looks FORWARD

After the death of Joshua... Judges 1.1

In those days there was no king in Israel. Judges 21.25 

Looks BACK to JOSHUA, MOSES, ABRAHAM, CREATION itself...

Looks FORWARD to KINGDOM...esp Kingship of DAVID from JUDAH

**OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE**

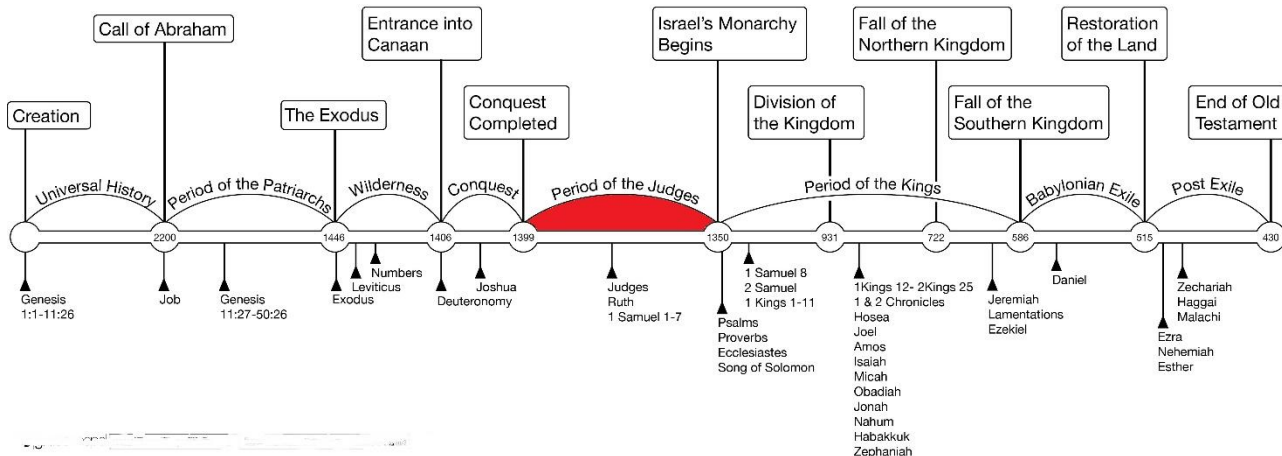


DIAGRAM – Period of Judges – about 400 yrs – Middle of OT Story

Book tells us about 12 Judges – 6 of them in GREAT DETAIL...

## 1. Land of Promise: *God our Creator*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.      Genesis 1.1

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof the world and those who dwell therein      Psalm 24.1



The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”      Genesis 12.7

GOD Made the UNIVERSE > Gave Small piece PLANET Earth family of Abe  
STRIP of LAND links AFRICA, EUROPE, and ASIA > PROMISED LAND  
HOMELAND for Nation FATHERED by PROMISED SON of Abe & SARAH

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”  
Genesis 15.18-20

500 YEARS before Book of Judges > God gave EVICTION NOTICE “ites”  
SOVEREIGN Prerogative of Lord God > Ordained “A People for All Peoples”  
MAJOR THEME of O.T. is THIS LAND – PROMISE and POSSESSION

## Book of JOSHUA Opens with PROMISE of God

The LORD said to Joshua... “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them...being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Joshua 1.5-7

GRACIOUS, UNDESERVED Promise > Not Chosen because were GOOD

CONDITIONAL Promise > KEEP God’s Word, do NOT Turn Away from Him

If you want to LIVE in God’s LAND you MUST be God Fearing / Following

END of JOSHUA’S Life he SURVEYS their PROGRESS....

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers... for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass. Joshua 21.43-45

God of ISRAEL is PROMISE KEEPER > NONE of His Words will FAIL

When they’re BRAVE in HIM they were BLESSED with CONQUEST

POSITIVE HEADLINE over JOSHUA Story – Fine Print not So POSITIVE

“Juan Manuel Santos, the president of Colombia, was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.” Norwegian Nobel Committee, 2016

Rest of Story > Colombian Electorate VOTED DOWN his Peace Treaty

PRESIDENT SANTOS – like JOSHUA – Praised for VALIANT EFFORTS

BOOK of JUDGES begins BASKING in the GLORY OF JOSHUA

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” Judges 1.1

When they STOOD in his VALIANT Footsteps, they TRIUMPHED...

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel.  
Judges 2.7

Book of JUDGES BEGINS Well, God's People take GOD'S LAND...

vs. 2,4 The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand"...the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand

## 2. Land is Polluted: *God is Holy*

GOD of the Bible is HOLY – SET APART, UNIQUE, GLORIOUS, GOOD  
ETERNAL Purpose is to have HOLY PEOPLE who will Behold HIS GLORY  
PROMISED Land INTENDED to be HOLY – Like Eden was Garden of GOD

When God PROMISED Land to Abe – Spiritual TOXIC WASTE DUMP  
INHABITANTS were being EVICTED because they were REVOLTING

The LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring...shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete"... On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram Genesis 15.13,18

INIQUITY of OCCUPANTS Rose like STENCH into the Nostrils of GOD

400 yrs Later – As Moses leads them to BORDER – Iniquity MATASTISIZED

"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations...who burn their sons and daughters as an offering...practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you."  
Deuteronomy 18.9-12

You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not lie with a male as with a

woman; it is an abomination. And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion. “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. Leviticus 18.21-25

### 3. Land must be Purified: *God is Just*

#### a. Ground is for the Gospel

When God PROMISED Abe the LAND it was Part of COVENANT BLESSING

God CHOSE One to BRING FORTH a SAVIOR for the MANY

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, *so that you will be a blessing*. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” Genesis 12.1-3

Abe NO BETTER than Others of His Day – Fell with Adam, Cursed in Noah

Joshua 24 says Abe FROM Family of IDOL WORSHIPPERS

Given GRACE – Undeserved Love and Forgiveness – to be Instrument of Grace  
God > Ordained “A People for All Peoples” >> “A MAN for All Nations”

2000 yrs AFTER ABE we OPEN N.T. and Read these FIRST WORDS...

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.  
Matthew 1.1

Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” ...those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith...in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3.6-14

Read OT see BARELY MADE IT – Even with All Laws, Covenants, Sacrifices  
CHOSEN People – Abe’s Family – Stubborn, Sinful, and Persistently STUPID

Book of JUDGES – See them FAIL and FALL AWAY > See OURSELVES!!



When Book of JUDGES Opens

Promised Land looks like SWISS CHEESE

God's People often NOT BRAVE

Fail to OBEY and Win HIS VICTORY

This Land for Gospel is filled with People  
who DO NOT Love the LORD

#### b. Devoted to Destruction

In the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, but you shall devote them to complete destruction...that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.  
Deuteronomy 20.16-18

CANAANITES had WOMANIZED their WORSHIP > Sexual Ceremonies

LUSTFUL Israelite Men could NOT SAY NO!

Only HOPE of HOLINESS was COMPLETE SEPARATION from Them

The main deity in Canaan was Baal, god of rainfall and fertility, and Ashtoreth was his spouse. If you wanted to have fruitful orchards and vineyards, flourishing crops, and increasing flocks and herds, you worshipped Baal by visiting a temple prostitute. This combination of idolatry, immorality, and agricultural success was difficult for men to resist, which explains why God told Israel to wipe out the Canaanite religion completely.  
Warren Wiersbe

Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction... But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction... Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep,

and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.... But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day  
Joshua 6.16-25

### c. Lawgiver is the Lifegiver

Some of most DIFFICULT Verses in BIBLE – People BLAME God for Wars  
I was in UGANDA in 1994 – Wept w/ Rwandese who Ran for SAFETY There  
Terrible Atrocities DONE in World Today > This is VERY DIFFERENT!

CANNOT Deny This if you want to be CHRISTIAN – Our Bible, Our God  
HUMBLY but HONESTLY Consider this ERA of History of OUR FAITH

#### 1) Warning – Words and Stars

Book of JOSHUA describes CONQUEST of this LAND

Even BEFORE the 1<sup>st</sup> BATTLE – SQUATTERS Well Aware IN God's Land

(Rahab) said to the men (spies in Jericho), "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you"  
Joshua 2.9

500 yrs EARLIER God of Heaven PROMISED that Land to Abe's NATION

God the CREATOR has SOVEREIGN CLAIM on those HE has CREATED

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them...in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him...  
Romans 1.18-21

#### 2) Specific and Limited – NOT RACISM – RAHAB & Family SAVED

v. 16 the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah

In Wilderness wanderings told to stay OUT of Certain Territories

Hebrew Travelers Told to PAY other peoples for Drinking their Water

But the LAND of CANAAN was GIVEN BY GOD to COVENANT People

vs. 8-11 And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland. And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai. From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir.

3) Not for Personal Gain – GLORY and the GOLD was for GOD ALONE

“DEVOTED to God” – DARE Not touch what is Consecrated to HIM

ACHAN was Aching when Took things Devoted to God from JERICHO

SAUL Lost his KINGSHIP for Failing to HONOR God in this Way

WHOLE Nation was PUNISHED and DEFEATED for his GREED

The judgment of God is the other face of the coin which is the mercy of God.

Peter Craigie

vs. 4-7 Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. And Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Even PAGAN LORD of BEZEK – Acknowledges JUST & SOVEREIGN God

He confesses that it is GOD WHO REPAYS him for his WICKED DEEDS

JUDAH was God’s Sword of JUSTICE – SAINTS will judge KINGS of World

It is notable that, while many 21<sup>st</sup> century readers have many qualms about Israel’s conduct in Canaan, this defeated Canaanite did not. God’s judgment throughout history is to give people over to the consequences of the life they have chosen – Adoni-Bezek, it appears, accepts this. Tim Keller



#### d. Jesus defines Justice

Jesus DEFEATED Powers of Darkness not by KILLING but by DYING

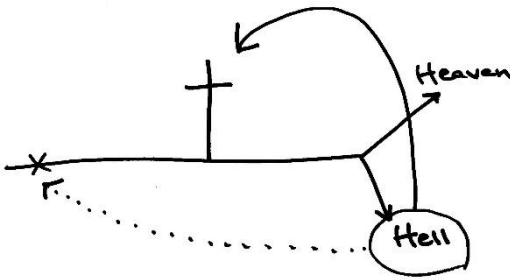
God the WARRIOR became God the CRUCIFIED

Gospel ADVANCES by JOINING with Jesus in His SAVING SUFFERINGS

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5.8,9

It is not belief in a God of judgment that leads to a brutalized society, but a loss of belief in a God of judgment. Tim Keller

#### e. Heaven or Hell – Intrusion



Judgment on Canaanites was INTRUSION /  
Foreshadowing of HELL

Jesus is GOD of the OT and NT –  
He TOOK Wrath & He will GIVE IT!

Jesus Preached MORE about HELL than he did HEAVEN

Because He does NOT WANT Any One to Go There – Died to Keep us Out!

FULL FURY of Hell was seen on CROSS – POURED Out on Jesus the Lamb

“It will only be with the frank acknowledgment that the ordinary standards were suspended and the ethical principles of the last Judgment intruded that the divine promises and commands to Israel concerning Canaan and the Canaanites come into their own and the Conquest can be justified and seen as it was in truth — not murder, but the hosts of the Almighty visiting upon the rebels against His righteous throne their just deserts — not robbery, but the meek inheriting the earth.” Meredith Kline

## 4. The Lord is our Possession: *God is Savior*

### a. Spread of Sin



In Book of JUDGES becomes Difficult / IMPOSSIBLE to Identify Players

RUGBY Match in POURING RAIN – All Players COVERED IN MUD

Once RED Team and BLUE Team

/ NOW BIG BROWN Team Covers Field

Chapter 1 – Most of Book – Historical Narrative – FACTS, FACTS, FACTS

Just because the BIBLE Records something does NOT MEAN it is RIGHT

MUCH of the Bible is DESCRIPTIVE, Not all of it is PRESCRIPTIVE

DEATH of HERO JOSHUA, meant to REMIND THEM of WORDS of Joshua

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1.8

READ JUDGES with MOSES Glasses On – Is this what God COMMANDED?

Chapter 1 makes SENSE Pragmatically, Economically, and Militarily

BE CAREFUL, BE PRUDENT, DON'T TAKE RISKS, STAY SAFE!

v. 19 And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

RELIGIOUS EMPTY TALK – God was WITH THEM --- but God is a WIMP!

God can't HANDLE those IRON CHARIOTS --- gotta STAY SAFE!

PHAROAH had IRON Chariots – Lots of Them – RUSTING bottom of Red Sea

“Messy People, Merciful God” - “despicable people doing deplorable things”  
 “trashy tales about dysfunctional characters”

NOT a Book of VIRTUES > ONLY ONE Hero in Book...NOT HUMAN

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21.25

## b. Signs of a Savior

JUDGES are NOT Legal Experts – Men in BLACK ROBES

WARRIORS – DELIVERERS – Small “S” – saviors from enemies

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Judges 2.16

HUMAN saviors – FALLEN into Sin – Sometimes GREAT Sin

Pointing FORWARD in OLD COVENANT to DAVID from Tribe of JUDAH

HOLY SPIRIT is Pointing BEYOND Man David to David’s Son and Lord

Paul to Synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia, “...he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised” Acts 13.22,23

GOOD NEWS of Bible > God sent PERFECT SAVIOR, SINLESS Warrior

OUT of DEFILED Humanity God is PREPARING a BEAUTIFUL BRIDE

...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2.1-3

## c. Strong in Salvation

TAKE AWAY from this LONG and COMPLICATED Sermon is Simple...

BE BRAVE in the GOSPEL

Called to do SOMETHING HARDER than Warriors of ISRAEL

LOVE CANAANITES – TURN CHEEK for a 2<sup>nd</sup> SLAP – Walk 2<sup>nd</sup> MILE  
 God who ORDERED WAR at that UNIQUE Moment in History of Redemption  
 Calls us to be HUMBLE WITNESSES --- SCARY then, and Still SCARY NOW  
 LAND is Filled with GIANTS and we look like PUNY GRASSHOPPERS

Called to TAKE Every False THOUGHT Captive to the Obedience of Christ  
 Study to Show Yourself Approved as God's Worker – Rightly Handle His Word  
 Charged to Give REASON for Your HOPE – Sanctify Christ as your LORD

CALLED to be COUNTER-CULTURAL – BRAVE Against Attacks  
 CULTURE calls you HATEFUL because you Follow God's Design for Marriage  
 World calls FOOLISH think God of Bible Sovereign Right to do what Chooses

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of  
 thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live  
 for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will  
 of God.  
 1 Peter 4.1,2

People of GOD needed to be BRAVE to say NO to Godlessness of Canaan  
 Today LIVE in SEX-SATURATED SOCIETY – Brave say NO to Pornography  
 NO to Sleeping with BOYFRIEND > You are BRIDE of Jesus Christ

TODAY World Worships MOLECH – KILL More CHILDREN than Canaanites

The World Wide abortion counters uses one of the more conservative estimates  
 on the number of abortions world-wide since 1980 (40 Million per year for  
 30years) and this equals 1,200,000 Billion <http://www.numberofabortions.com>

Last 2 weeks seen Husband & Wife from this church STARE DOWN DEATH  
 Bravely telling GOD whether in Heaven or Here on Earth they Belong to HIM

God's call to his people (then and now) is to combine spirituality with bravery. True discipleship is radical and risk-taking, because true disciples rely on God to keep his promises to bless them, and not their own instincts, plans, or insurance policies.

Tim Keller

Tucked into Chapter 1 – Calculated, Limited-Risk taking of Israelite Warriors  
Family that Lived with RECKLESS ABANDON

Moses sent 12 Spies into Canaan – ONLY 2 WERE BRAVE

By Faith lived to LIVE in PROMISED LAND

One of them must have FED Canaanites to KIDS for BREAKFAST

EVEN his DAUGHTER is BRAVE, more than her Warrior Husband

THANKS for that LAND Dad! But Hey! Your Grandkids will Need a DRINK...

vs. 12-15 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife." And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife. When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

BLESSED are the CHILDREN'S CHILDREN of the BRAVE in the LORD

CALEB'S GRANDKIDS drank deeply from Springs of God in Promised Land!

Jesus: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16.33

Judges 1.<sup>1</sup> After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”<sup>2</sup> The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”<sup>3</sup> And Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you.” So Simeon went with him.<sup>4</sup> Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek.<sup>5</sup> They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.<sup>6</sup> Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes.<sup>7</sup> And Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.<sup>8</sup> And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.<sup>9</sup> And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland.<sup>10</sup> And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.<sup>11</sup> From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher.<sup>12</sup> And Caleb said, “He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife.”<sup>13</sup> And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.<sup>14</sup> When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you want?”<sup>15</sup> She said to him, “Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water.” And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.<sup>16</sup> And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses’ father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people.<sup>17</sup> And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it to destruction. So the name of the city was called Hormah.<sup>18</sup> Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.<sup>19</sup> And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.<sup>20</sup> And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak.<sup>21</sup> But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.