

Judges 1.22 – 2.5

Wiser than God?

I was SO ANGRY that HE got Elected PRESIDENT of the United States!!

He was NOT GOING to be MY PRESIDENT! > He's a CROOK!

This WAR-MONGER was Gonna send ME to FIGHT in Viet Nam!

Get my HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA then I would come HOME in BODY Bag!

**I thot World Ended when Richard NIXON was Elected in 1968**



If Pres. Nixon NOT Come to BEIJING in 1972

I would probably NOT be Here TODAY

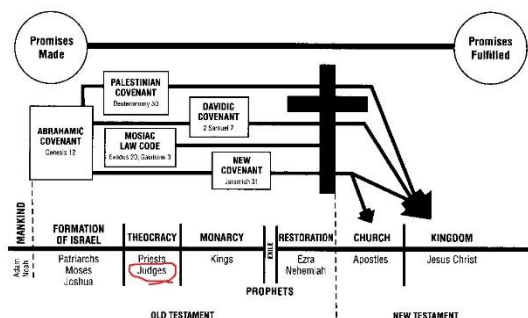
BICF may have Never Been Launched Either

Cannot always Trace God's Hand of Providence

Sometimes Think we KNOW MORE than God

OT gives BIG PICTURE of Work of God – 2000 yrs of COVENANT History

## 1. Covenant



WORD Bible uses to DESCRIBE our  
Relationship with GOD > COVENANT

NOAH, ABRAHAM, MOSES, DAVID, JESUS

COVENANT – Solemn OATH, Confirmed in BLOOD, BINDING Obligations

God kept COVENANT Made with Abe, Isaac, Jacob > Freed them from Egypt

After Leading them thru RED SEA, He took them to MOUNT SINAI...

The LORD called to him (Moses) out of the mountain, saying, "...tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and **keep my covenant**, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Exodus 19.3-6

## a. Land of Promise

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...”  
Genesis 15.18

LAND was PROMISED to ABE, MOSES led People to the BORDERLAND

And the LORD spoke to Moses...“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it ...But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.”  
Numbers 33.50-56

JOSHUA was God-Appointed GENERAL who led Army of Lord into LAND

As he is about to DIE – He REVIEWS the PROGRESS of their CONQUEST

“And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you...if you transgress **the covenant of the LORD your God**, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”  
Joshua 23.14,16

Book of JUDGES can be Understood as JOSHUA Volume 2

Same PLOT Line >> PEOPLE of God taking the GOD PROMISED Land

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 Joshua’s 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

## b. Power of the Lord

JUDGES BEGINS Well, God's People take GOD'S LAND in God's POWER

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

Judges 1.2,4

Beginning of BOOK – TRIBE of JUDAH has PRIDE OF PLACE

Perhaps CLUE Book WRITTEN during REIGN of KING DAVID of JUDAH

v. 19 the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country

vs. 1-20 Exploits of Tribes of Judah and Simeon

vs. 21-36 Historical Record of Other Tribes

v. 22 The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them.

"House of JOSEPH" probably GENERIC Name for ENTIRE Nation of ISRAEL

Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, '**I will never break my covenant with you...**'" Judges 2.1

ANGEL of the Lord > PRE Incarnation Appearance of Lord Jesus Christ

Word Angel = MESSENGER – but this ANGEL is MUCH MORE

Speaks in the FIRST Person – What HE as GOD DID and WILL DO...

vs. 1-3 the angel of the LORD...he said, "I brought you up from Egypt... land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you...But you have not obeyed my voice.

GILGAL near JERICHO > Appeared in Joshua 5 Commander of Lord's Army

TABERNACLE Originally Placed GILGAL > Site of COVENANT Renewal

PASSOVER was CELEBRATED and MEN were CIRCUMCISED

PLACE where MILITARY CAMPAIGN Began...

Angel of God comes FROM GILGAL to REVIEW their PROGRESS > Conquest

Joshua	Judges
Victory	Defeat
Freedom	Slavery
Faith	Unbelief
Progress	Destruction
Spiritual Vision	Worldly Emphasis
Faithfulness to God	Rebellion against God
Joy	Sorrow
Strength	Weakness
Unity	Division
Sin Judged	Sin Ignored

NO ORDINARY Angel / Messenger

Come for IMPORTANT Assignment

DAY of RECKONING

God's JUDGMENT on their

FAILURE to OBEY Him

## SAD Difference between BOOKS of JOSHUA and JUDGES

### 2. Choices

Covenant DEMANDS Choices – We've PART to Play, Covenant Members

like WEDDING Covenant > FAITHFULNESS Bride & Groom to E/Other

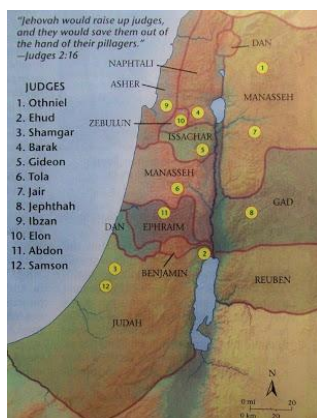
In his FAREWELL Speech JOSHUA Pressed ISRAEL with these Choices...

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD...choose this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”  
Joshua 24.14,15

#### a. Loyalty

I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?  
Judges 2.1,2

Chapter 1 tells us WHAT THEY HAVE DONE....



1 Commentator rightly calls this Section: Theological Geography

v. 22 FOCUS Shifts NORTH > Each Section opens “to go up”

Further NORTH GO Up > Further SOUTH their SPIRITUALITY

Writer more PREACHER than CARTOGRAPHER > Hammers home 7 X’s

“did not drive out the inhabitants...” vs. 27,28,29,30,31,32,33

But they were VERY CLEVER ---

v. 28 When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

v. 29 so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

v. 30 so the Canaanites lived among them, but became subject to forced labor

v. 33 the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

v. 34 The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.

“the Lord with them” > Meant CONQUER Not COMPROMISE with Them

When you can ENSLAVE People you can DESTROY Them

WORKING with the Canaanites SOON BECAME WORSHIPPING with Them

ENSLAVE Them – By Adultery and Idolatry they will Spiritually Enslave You!

Feature	Judah & Adoni-Bezek (4-7)	Ephraim & Luzite (23-26)
Status of Survivor	Important Figure: "Lord"	Unnamed Traitor
Actions of Israelite Warriors	Judah: Finds, Fights, Pursues, Seizes, Mutilates, Deports him	Ephraim: Entreats, Negotiates, Sets him Free, Spares his Family
Fate of Canaanite	Loses his Realm, Thumbs, Toes, Life	Moves into Canaan Builds City & Prospers

Daniel I. Block

MILITARY SUCCESS has no SPIRITUAL MEANING

Canaanite CULTURE gets a BREEDING GROUD > a CITY without GOD

Like CAIN who Went OUT from Presence of God & Built GODLESS CITY

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 14.12

Dozens of Xtians NEW UNDERSTANDING getting Higher Education in China

God KNOWS they're SO Busy – New Language – Demands of Study – Pressure

So I can MISS a Few Church services – Bible Readings – Too Busy to PRAY!!

Christian Faith does not REQUIRE Higher Education – NOT Any Education

COVEANANT Formula Very Simple – Blessing? OBEY / Cursing? DISOBEY

Seek God First – Love God, Love Neighbor > Some NOW WISER THAN GOD

7 X's "THEY did not drive out the inhabitants of..."

Speaks to a CHOICE they Made > Choice were RESPONSIBLE For

Their GrandCHILDREN will know YAHWEH as just Another Powerless IDOL

They are like SURGEONS that only Remove HALF of the MALIGNANCY

"CANCER has a RIGHT to GROW and FIND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT"

Tolerance and suicide are congenial bed-fellows... What began as toleration became apostasy. What seemed so reasonable proved lethal. Dale Ralph Davis

It is NOT WORSHIP! I am just taking YOGA to help me RELAX, STRETCH!

We're NOT Getting MARRIED! I just have FUN DATING UNBELIEVERS

It's NOT Intercourse > We're just COMMUNICATING...Naked

I am NOT STEALING! Just ROUNDING Off some Numbers on My Accounts

I don't Support Abortion! But I think a Woman has RIGHT to Choose!

FIRST STEP in FORSAKING God is Neglecting the WORD of God

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 4.3,4

So MANY WAYS we become WISER than GOD

b. Live with Them > CONSEQUENCES Spoken by COVENANT LORD

v. 3 So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”

MOST DETERMINED People in STORY Not Israelites...

v. 27 the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land.

v. 35 The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres

JW's and MORMONS MORE ZEALOUS than REAL CHRISTIANS!

Their covenant with a Canaanite became an accommodation with the whole Canaanite way of life, including their religion, and the wrong once committed became a besetting sin that they fell into again and again throughout the entire period of the judges...Tolerance is a relative, not absolute virtue. Whether or not it is good depends on what is tolerated.

Barry G. Webb

Doing Something INCONSISTENT with God's Word can be Easily Rationalized

We can ALWAYS EASILY Find some GOOD Reasons to do WRONG Thing!

Doing RIGHT thing can be VERY HARD and Sometimes SEEMS Unreasonable

Sometimes OBEYING Christ means DISOBEYING Family Members

Sometimes ADVANCING in God's Kingdom / Pushed OUT Man's Kingdom

It is not our lack of strength that prevents us from enjoying God's blessings...it is our lack of faith in his strength. When we rely on ourselves, and base our walk with God on our own calculations instead of simply obeying...it is half-way discipleship and Judges show us that it leads to no discipleship at all. Tim Keller

70 yrs of USSR Churches NOT Completely CLOSED Down by SOVIETS

AUTHORITIES Made Life MISERABLE for Russian Christians

LAST Place Bread Lines, Passed over Promotions, Children held back Schools

GREAT PAIN – Kids SUFFER because of their BOLD STAND for FAITH

Need to be WATCHFUL – Church at Ephesus did not Lose 1<sup>st</sup> Love at Once  
Church at LAODICEA did Not become LUKEWARM Overnight

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6.14

The central theme of Judges confirms the spiritual law that obedience to God's laws brings his blessing, while disobedience results in punishment and curses...the sin of the people is followed by suffering just as night follows day.

Tokunboh Adeyemo

### 3. Crying

vs. 4,5 As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

FINAL Words of Angel of the Lord are SAD ONES for God's Faithless People



// WEDDING – Demands EXCLUSIVE LOYALTY – Broken by Unfaithfulness

People become WEEPERS “Bokim” – a Place of TEARS

There are TEARS All Over the PLACE

GOOD Thing – Hearts Still TENDER before GOD, Humbled, BROKEN

NOT Clear WHAT Happened NEXT? --- Just TEARS? TURNING from Sin?

“return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments” declares the LORD Joel 2.12,13

It is very easy to make a Welshman cry, but you need an earthquake to make him change his mind! D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

RESPONSE of God to their TEARS was to RAISE UP JUDGES

Not Part of ORIGINAL Plan – MERCIFUL Solution to Tears of Repentant Israel

Sometimes HARD TO TELL are the TEARS Shed in TRUTH? or Falsehood??

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7.10

Ro ohunti o fe se lekan, sugbon abo re l’emeji – “Think of what you are about to do once, but think about its consequences twice” Yoruba Proverb

#### 4. Cross

vs. 2,3 What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you...

CONUNDRUM – Holy God cannot DENY HIMSELF – Must Punish SIN

Even GOD’S People will Face Consequences of God’s Perfect JUSTICE

How can the PLAN of GOD Move FORWARD with these Covenant Breakers?

God’s Eternal Plan – People for His Name from Every Tongue and Nation

God Blessed THIS People to BRING BLESSING to ALL Peoples

But this PEOPLE WISER THAN GOD! FOOLISH in their FAILURES!

We know MORE THAN any JUDGE Ever Knew

God in HIS BOUNDLESS Mercy and Grace had PLAN for Them and US

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

Tho we are HOPELESSLY ADDICTED to Sin > He will SAVE US!

At GREAT COST to HIMSELF > Fulfills DEMANDS of His Own JUSTICE

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3.21-26

ALL the Covenants of God are MERCIFUL and GRACIOUS

But how much GREATER the GRACE of our NEW Covenant in CHRIST!

NO Wonder there is NO Forgiveness for those who STILL WALK AWAY

STOP Trying to be WISER than GOD? There is No Other Way to be SAVED!

TRUST in Jesus – He alone Satisfies GOD'S PERFECT JUSTICE

And by the CROSS Displays his BOUNDLESS Mercy and GRACE!

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1.9

Judges 1.22The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. 23And the house of Joseph scouted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz.) 24And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, “Please show us the way into the city, and we will deal kindly with you.” 25And he showed them the way into the city. And they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go. 26And the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city and called its name Luz. That is its name to this day.

27Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land. 28When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

29And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

30Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, so the Canaanites lived among them, but became subject to forced labor.

31Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon or of Ahlab or of Achzib or of Helbah or of Aphik or of Rehob, 32so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not drive them out.

33Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

34The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain. 35The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalvim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to forced labor. 36And the border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

JUDGES 2.1 Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, 2and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? 3So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” 4As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Judges</b>
Victory	Defeat
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