

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Second Generation Syndrome

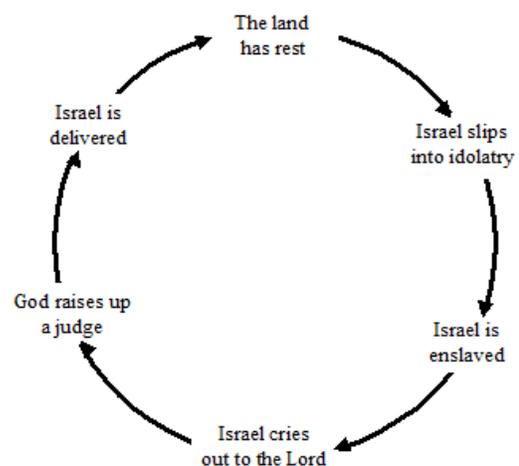
Judges 2:1-23
Lesson 2

Introduction

Our passage begins with an accusation from the Angel of the Lord. In sharp contrast to the peaceful unified picture of Israel at the end of the book of Joshua, the breakdown of the Israelite society is already evident. Chapter 2 tells us that once the generation that had seen the great miracles of God had all died, another generation “who did not know the Lord” arose (v10). They forgot the Lord, they forsook His ways, and deliberately refused to acknowledge God’s authority over their lives. It was not that they had not heard, it was that they did not have an experiential and relational relationship with the Lord, and therefore did not believe.

What is the first thing that God says about that generation? “The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals.” (v11). Instead of acknowledging God as their King, they disregarded His Word, which led to compromise and culminated in both dwelling with the enemy and worshiping their gods. True to His promise, God delivered Israel into the hands of their enemies. He announces that He will no longer drive the nations from before them, but will leave the enemy in the land to test, or refine them. What was in their hearts? Would they obey His word or rely on their own senses and abilities to direct them?

Chapter 2 outlines the pattern that will be repeated throughout the book. Israel is **disobedient** to God’s Word, God **disciplines** them by the hands of their enemy, they fall into **despair** and cry out to God, God raises up judges to **deliver** them from their oppression, followed by a period of rest. When the judge dies and they no longer have someone to unite the people, the cycle begins all over again. The cycle should encourage us to look closely at behavior that brings God’s blessing contrasted with what elicits His discipline. What some commentators have called “the book of failure”, is a dramatic lesson into the condition of the human heart that does not know God relationally but only by reputation, a perfect manifestation of walking in the flesh.



BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 2:1-6 _____

Judges 2:7-10 _____

Judges 2:11-15 _____

Judges 2:16-23 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?



How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 2:1-6 _____

Judges 2:7-10 _____

Judges 2:11-15 _____

Judges 2:16-23 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

What did God say? Deut. 4:9-14

What caused Israel's disobedience after Joshua's generation died? Judg. 2:10

What was the root of their children's failure to know God? 1 Chron. 28:9 may help

Why did God leave the enemy in the land? v. 21-23

What words or phrases are repeated?

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 2:1-6 _____
Judges 2:7-10 _____
Judges 2:11-15 _____
Judges 2:16-23 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Deut. 8:5

Radiating His Truth . . .

The sin in our lives that we fail to conquer will eventually conquer us.

-Bible Expository Commentary

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