

How a Nation Unravels: The Book of Judges

Lesson 2

Judges 2:6-3:11

January 16, 2022

As the Family Goes, So Goes the Nation

Introduction

It's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result. Of course, this is not the true definition, but it has a ring of truth in every example we see in the world.

In this passage, the Israelites continue to return to their fruitless pursuits of idols and worthless gods. But, when these pursuits end in eventual anguish and distress, they cry out to the one true God of their ancestors, and in His mercy, He saves them repeatedly.

We have the privilege of reading in hindsight, seeing the Israelites' ridiculous behavior. It is easy to judge them and expect that we would be different, yet we, too, can tend toward the same actions and attitudes. For example, exchange Baal worship for an iPhone or working your way up the corporate ladder, and we are like the Israelites, giving our time, effort, resources, and devotion to a man-made object or pursuit and expecting it to provide us with the peace and security we desire.

Only God can give us the true love, acceptance, and comfort we desperately want. So, put your trust in Him and learn from the Israelites' mistakes.

***Memory verse: "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel."
—Judges 2:10***

Pray and read Judges 2:6-3:11. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What did the Israelites do after Joshua dismissed them? (Judges 2:6)
2. How long did the Israelites serve the Lord? (Judges 2:7)
3. Whom did the Israelites serve after the original generation died? (Judges 2:12-13)
4. What did God do in His anger? (Judges 2:14-15)
5. When the Lord raised up a judge for Israel, what were His actions toward them? (Judges 2:18)
6. What nations did the Lord let remain in Canaan? (Judges 3:1-3)
7. What were the other nations left to do? (Judges 3:4)

What does the passage mean?

1. The Bible shows example after example of God's patience towards His people. What is God's patience and heart toward us? Why is it important to remember that God is "slow to anger"? (Exodus 34:6; Joel 2:13; 2 Peter 3:9)

2. Read Exodus 20:4-6. How many generations were punished for the sin of bowing down to idols? How many generations were shown love? Why do we tend to focus on the punishment of God and miss the lavish love that God bestows?

3. Romans 3:23 says that, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Again, in Romans, Paul says, "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). What does this mean for the Israelites, and what does it mean for us today?

4. Now, look at the second half of Romans 6:23. What is the gracious gift that God gave us even while we were still sinners? In whose name are we saved and given this gift?

Applying the passage

1. How can you tend to be like the Israelites, forgetting all that God has done and serving other gods or man-made things?

