



BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Déjà Vu All Over Again Judges 1:1—3:6



To achieve God's best for us we must break the cycle of disobedience and discipline.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God's mission

The inimitable Yogi Berra once described watching Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris repeatedly hit back-to-back homeruns as “it’s like déjà vu all over again”. As this week’s first study in Judges shows Israel kept repeating the same behavior again and again. They had a positive beginning after the death of Joshua, as Judah, following God’s lead, took on the Canaanites in their portion of land. They asked Simeon to join them, promising that they would help them later. This they did, first defeating Bezek and their king, Adoni-bezek. Judah cut off his thumbs and big toes, which he viewed as retribution for his similar treatment of seventy of the kings he defeated. Next, Judah captured Jerusalem, defeated Hebron, and then allowed Caleb to conquer De-

bir and as promised by Moses. His future son-in-law, Othniel, did this, then married Caleb’s daughter and given additional land at her request. However, even though God was with them, when they defeated some Philistine territories they couldn’t drive all of them out because they had iron chariots. The same was true for Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, and this pattern was repeated with Zebulun, Asher, and Dan. In fact, the Amorites forced Dan into the hill country and then lived among Israel. The reason for this pattern was explained in Judges 2—Israel only had a partial obedience to God. Through His angel God explained that they had broken their covenant by making a covenant with the Canaanites and not tearing down their pagan al-

tars. So, God said He would leave them in the land to test Israel’s obedience to Him. This led to seven cycles of disobedience, punishment and restoration. As they fell into idolatry, God brought oppressors against them, they cried out for God to help; this moved Him to pity for them, and He raised up judges—God’s “super heroes” - to deliver them. They led victories over these Canaanites and liberated them from their oppressors. But Israel always lapsed into idolatry. By the end it was obvious that there was a need for God’s king to rule. Their recurring rebellion was “déjà vu all over again.

Study Questions for Judges 1:1-3:6

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Judges 1:1-7. What did Israel ask God after Joshua’s death (v1) and what did He say (v2)? What did Judah propose (v3) and what happened (v4, 5-7)? Why were they successful (v4)?</p>	
<p>2. In 1:8-15 who and where did Judah fight next (v8, 9-10)? After this what challenge did Caleb lay out (v11-12) and who responded (v13)? What else occurred there (v14-15)? How is Caleb a good example for us?</p>	
<p>3. Using 1:16-21 who settled with Judah (v16)? What was their next conquest and outcome (v17-18), and why (v19)? What did they do good (v20) and bad (v19, 21)? What was the result (v21)?</p>	

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Judges 1:1-3:6 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. From Judges 1:22-29 who also fought (v22, 27, 29) and who did they fight (v23, 27, 29)? How was initial victory achieved (v23-26), but what were the ongoing results (v27-28, 29)? How do you evaluate this?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 1:30-36 what other tribes fought (v30, 31, 33, 34), who did they fight (v30, 31, 33, 34), and how did it all turn out (v30, 32, 33, 35-36)? What point is being made from 1:19-36?</p>	
<p>6. Read 2:1-5. Who spoke to Israel (v1)? Of what did He remind them (v1-2) and what did He say about them (v2)? How does His response (v3) explain 1:19-36? How did Israel respond to this (v4,5)?</p>	
<p>7. According to 2:6-11 how long was Israel faithful to God (v6-10)? What was the turning point (v10) and then what happened (v11)? Why (v10)? What lessons can we draw from this?</p>	
<p>8. Looking at 2:12-15 how did the new generation act (v12, 13) and how did God respond (v14-15)? Should they have been surprised (v15, see Lev 26:14-39, Deut 28:15-68)?</p>	
<p>9. Using 2:16-23 how did God intervene (v16) and how did Israel react (v17)? Describe the ongoing cycle Israel fell into (v18, 19, 20-21)? Why did God leave the Canaanites among them (v22-23)? Explain and apply.</p>	
<p>10. Read 3:1-6. What was another purpose of God in leaving the Canaanites in Israel (v1-2)? Identify the nations God left there (v3), His reason (v4), and their response (v5-6).</p>	
<p>11 Summarize the history of Israel after the death of Joshua (1:1-19), and then after the death of his generation (2:10-23). What got Israel in trouble (2:1-2, 11-13) and how did God respond (2:14-15, 16)? Why? How can we apply this to our lives?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“When the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning....”

Judges 2:18 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—A Crowing Rooster (Luke 22:54-62)

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share about a time you got “caught” - how it happened, why you were doing it, how you felt. Why do we try to get away with “stuff”?
2. Look at Luke 22:54-62 and recap it. Discuss the definition of denial “to disavow a professed allegiance”. How did Peter do this?
3. Talk about the 3 kinds of denial—1) apathy, 2) duplicity, and 3) hypocrisy. Explain what they mean, give examples of each, and why they constitute denial.
4. How does 22:54 describe Peter's *internal* condition? Discuss how Peter was alone, full of pride, and prayer-less leading up to his denial. Why did these lead into his denial?
5. Think about and share with the group how you are doing in these 3 areas. Then, as a group talk about how you can help each other grow in these areas.
6. Of the 3 consequences Peter experienced from his denial—Christ's face looking at him, feeling like a failure, and fear of the future—which one do you fear most? What is the answer for each?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message of time permits.