

Inquired of the Lord
Judges 1:1-26

Author- It is unknown who the author is.

Date- The book was written between the books of Joshua and Samuel. It is thought to have been written between 1010-970 BC.

The name of the book Judges is from the title given to the 12 leaders “Judges”.

Theme- The downward spiral of Israel’s national and spiritual life. When Israel forgets about God or does not live for God as a priority, things always go bad for them. Not living for God leads to chaos and apostasy.

Judges is written to show the consequences of religious apostate, wandering from God, and being lured in by the world.

Themes:

1. Israel was prospering when they followed God. When they turn away from God, they will be in captivity.
2. When Israel or we turn away from God it leads to pain and difficulty.
3. Even when we are unfaithful, God is faithful to us.
4. The judge’s leadership did not help Israel. They and we need a Savior.
5. It takes godly leaders and people to impact others toward God.

Joshua ends with God blessing Israel because Joshua was a good leader and the Israelites were living for the LORD. In Judges we will see there are consequences when we turn our backs on God.

Apostasy refers to the conscious and willful abandonment or renunciation of a religious faith, particularly Christianity. It involves a deliberate turning away from previously held beliefs and teachings, often after having embraced them. This act reveals a serious spiritual condition that, if left unaddressed, may result in God's judgment, bringing consequences that affect both one's spiritual condition and earthly life.

Israel, and we, often follow a pattern of striving to be our own gods and then realizing that when we worship and submit to the one true God, life goes better. God disciplines Israel and us, but it is for the purpose of turning us back to Him and back into blessings both here and for eternity.

Deuteronomy 8:5 *Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you.*

John 3:17 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Vs 1-7- Joshua was a good and faithful leader. God's people prospered under Joshua's leading them to inquire of and obey Him.

- 1. Do you inquire of the Lord? Do you ask God for direction? Do you look to the Bible for direction? Do you obey God and the Bible the best that you can, or do you do it your own way?**
- 2. When we partially obey God's leadership it leads to partial chaos (if you obey the law some of the time, things are not peaceful).**
- 3. When God is our leader, life may have difficult circumstances, but it always goes better and we will end up in perfect circumstance.**
- 4. A godly leader tries, but we all need Jesus for perfection.**

They inquired of the Lord and the Lord chose Judah.

Judah invites Simeon to go with him. These two men have the same mother. It makes sense that they would work together and trust each other.

They are not afraid to fight, because God is on their side; because of this, they will be victorious.

When we seek after God and follow Him and His ways things may not always be easy, but we will always be victorious.

Each city and town had its own king. During this time, it was not unusual to cut a king's hands (thumbs) or feet because they could not fight after that was done.

Israel ALWAYS has a problem when they do not drive all of the pagans and pagan rituals out of the land. We MUST remember that even a little sin in our life will impact us over time. If we intermarry or allow pagan rituals and practices into our daily lives, those things will plague us over time. As Christians we must strive to live by God's Word and ask forgiveness when we fail.

Vs 8-22 It was normal to establish political allies through family lines.

The Israelites and Judah obeyed the Lord, they trusted in God's strength to fight their battles, and they were victorious.

If time- vs 27-2:5 The Israelites partially obeyed God and they did not drive out pagan people with pagan practices. They disobeyed God and this hurt them and their people. Ungodly people with ungodly practices would lure them in.

Do you prioritize God and listen to Him? Do you trust in God's power and inquire of Him in your day-to-day battles? Are you allowing ungodly thoughts or pagan ways to influence you?