

## Judges, Sermon #3

Judges 1

Last week we covered two principles:

Principle #1 – There is a serious danger of compromise or apostasy when strong spiritual leaders die or depart and a new generation of leaders arises.

That is a crucial moment in any organization—nation, business, a church

Principle #2 – There is a great need for direct contact with God in order to affirm spiritual transition amongst God's leadership—Burrton Project

Acts 13 – Holy Spirit separated out Paul and Barnabas

I have entitled tonight's message "The Consequences of Compromise"

Cover the whole chapter – fasten your seat belts – long ride – stop in several places along the way and hit some of the important things.

Judges 1:4

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Judges 1:4-9

Let us pray

You may be seated.

## The Consequences of Compromise

The conquest – vs. 4

Town of Bezek

Adoni-bezek was captured and his thumbs and toes were cut off.

A common practice in the Middle East was to mutilate prisoners of war and afflict them.

Thumbs and toes were cut off to eliminate a warrior from further military service.

Vs. 7 – Seventy kings incapacitated were further degraded by being compelled to lie under Adonibezek's table and subsist upon the scraps which fell from it.

This custom of heaping insult upon a defeated enemy was in accordance with the practice of most ancient nations.

Many stories can be found of this practice.

One king of Egypt, harnessed the kings whom he had conquered to his chariot and compelled them to pull it.

One king of Persia, was compelled to stoop down, so that he might use his back as a block from which to mount his horse.

Dragging along royal captives whom they had taken in war, by means of a cord attached to a kind of fishhook, which was thrust through the lower lip, or through the cartilage of the nose, and by which the prisoner was pulled along.

Two key thoughts surface in verse seven:

**First is Remorse**

Adoni-bezek looks at his hands with no thumbs and feet without big toes and he is reminded of the seventy kings without thumbs and big toes that gather food from under his table.

Adoni-bezek cries out, "As I have done to them . . . God had done to me!"

This heathen king realized that God was judging his life!

Feelings of remorse flood his soul.

Remorse! Remorse! I've wronged others, hurt others, and now I am paying for my crimes.

Others in the Bible have expressed remorse for their sin.

Peter

Mathew 26:75 . . . Peter felt remorse for what he did.

Judas

Matthew 27:3 – Judas felt remorse for what he did.

Hell is full of people who have remorse for their sins, but it's TOO LATE then!

That remorse – that sorrow – over sin

It must turn to repentance.

## **Second is Reaping**

One reason for the remorse of Adoni-bezek was this man was reaping what he had sown.

He said, "As I have done, so God hath repaid me."

Sowing and reaping is a law of Scripture. You reap what you sow.

Job 4:8, *"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."*

Hosea 8:7a, *“For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.”*

Galatians 6:7, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

Men reap what they sow. History is full of examples.

Haman

Jacob reaped what he had sown.

1. Jacob lied to his father, Isaac, and his sons lied to him.
2. Jacob deceived his father with a goat and he was deceived with the blood of a goat. Joseph’s coat was dipped into blood to show him that something terrible must have happened to Joseph.
3. Jacob deceives his father about his favorite son (Esau), and his sons deceive him about his favorite son – Joseph.

In verse 8, Jerusalem (vs. 8) was Israel’s next trophy; but though the Israelites conquered the city, they didn’t occupy it (vs. 21).

That wasn’t done until the time of David (2 Sam. 5:7).

As this chapter continues, the conquests of Israel are recorded.

Hebron, Debir, Hormah, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron were all conquered – Judah is on a roll but the situation is about to quickly change.

Turn to Deuteronomy 7 where God warned the Israelites not to spare their pagan neighbors. (Deuteronomy 7:1-5)

Deuteronomy 31:1-6

It was by receiving and obeying the Book of the Law that Joshua had grown in faith and courage (Josh. 1:1-9; Rom. 10:17), and that same Word would have enabled the new generation to overcome their enemies and claim their inheritance.

The first step the new generation took toward defeat and slavery was neglecting the Word of God, and generations ever since have made that same mistake.

Now we see the conflict in the valley 1:19

The Lord was still with Judah.

Unfortunately, the Judah's faith begins to waver – fear begins to overtake their hearts.

Judah had a great start, but they lacked determination and steadfastness to stick it out. They were worried about the chariots of their enemies. We can't beat these guys! Israel had no chariots. To a foot soldier a charging chariot and horse was a fearful sight.

The Canaanite chariots had three people within them.

One was a driver, another was the shield bearer, and the other was the spear man.

The axles of the chariots had knives inserted in to cut down the soldiers as they drove by them.

Judah fails for the same reason we fail

We get our eyes off the Lord!

Joshua 11:4-9

Many times we know what to do, but we don't follow through.

This failure of Judah, the leading tribe, soon affects the rest of the nation.

So we see the collapse of the tribes – Judges 1:21-36

When we fail to obey God and deal with sin in our life, it leads to failure in the future.

Israel's disobedience and failure with the Canaanites lead to constant conflicts with these people.

Vs. 21 – the Benjamites fail. There were no recorded attempts to drive out the enemy.

Vs. 27 – Manasseh fails.

Vs. 29 – Ephraim fails. They eventually become idolatrous. Hosea said in Hosea 4:17  
– **Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.**

Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali and Dan all fail. (vs. 30-34)

**The consequences of compromise become more critical and costly.**

Israel lets their enemies remain.

The Canaanites eventually live alongside Israel. Canaanites are gaining more strength.

Israel lives alongside of the Canaanites. The enemies are getting stronger.

Israel is conquered by their enemies. Their enemies dictate demands.

Evil gains strength when given room to flourish.

They intermarry and become idolatrous (3:6, 7) and God is angry.

Israel started out strong but they compromised!

Mentioned are nine of the twelve tribes in their failure to win a total victory in driving out the enemy.

The Canaanites were well entrenched in the land because the Israelites had failed to drive them out.

They were a thorn in Israel's side during the reigns of Saul and David.

This is the Promised Land – God had given it to them!

Yet not one tribe was able to possess the land that God had given to it. How tragic!

## **Principles of Obedience**

### **1. The Decree of Obedience:**

Deuteronomy 26:16, *“This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”*

### **2. The Success of Obedience:**

Joshua 1:8, *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”*

If you want to prosper and have success, obey God’s Word.

Obedience brings blessing.

### **3. The Priority of Obedience:**

I Samuel 15:22, *“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”*

Obedience is of utmost importance to the Lord.

### **4. The Person of Obedience:**

Acts 5:29, *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”*

## 5. The Delights of Obedience:

James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

God promises a blessing to those who obey His Word.

★What we do with the Bible will determine what God does with us.★

Many of the Israelites began to live just like the Canaanites, so much so that they became Canaanites.

There was no distinction between the Israelites and the unholy, wicked Canaanites – not in lifestyle, not in their unholy, day-to-day living before God.

The Israelites became a permissive society, a people who lived a compromising, inconsistent life before God.

We will see the consequences of such compromise next week

Let us stand for closing invitation.

1. Any sin of disobedience – excuses – compromising?
2. Don't feel just remorse – repent – before it's too late!