

LIFE IN THE SIN CYCLE

(A Study in the Book of Judges)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
2011 September 18
Judges Message #2
Speaker: Mark Floyd

DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS FUTURE TROUBLE *(Judges 2:1-19)*

BACKGROUND

- God told Israel that He would drive out the pagans from the land He promised them (*Exodus 23:20-31*).
- God commanded Israel not to have any relationship with the Canaanites; not to serve them or their gods, nor to live according to their ways (*Exodus 23:24,32-33*).
- In the face of Canaanite resistance, Israel disobeyed God; they allowed pagans to remain in the land as slaves (*Judges 1*).

THE STAGE IS SET (1-9)

- As a result of their disobedience, the Canaanites would trouble Israel in the future; their gods would ensnare them (*1-3*).
- This generation regretted their sin, and served the Lord for the rest of their lives (*4-9*).

THE NEXT GENERATION (10-13)

- The children of those who inherited the land did not know God as their parents did; they forsook the Lord and served the gods of the people they lived amongst.

ISRAEL'S "SIN CYCLE" BEGINS (14-19)

- God was angered by Israel's sin and delivered them into the hands of their enemies; this resulted in great suffering (*14-15*).
- God raised up "judges" that delivered Israel from oppression; but in time, Israel rebelled against God again (*16-19*).

APPLICATION

In a manner similar to how He commanded Israel, God has commanded Christians not to have intimate relationships with unbelievers, not to fellowship with the works of spiritual darkness and not to love the world that Satan rules (*2 Cor 6:14-18; Eph 5:11; 1 Jn 2:15; Jn 12:31*). If we disobey God's command to set ourselves apart from Satan's domain, trouble will surely follow. Our sin has the potential of adversely affecting us as well our children.

When we insist on "playing in Satan's backyard", God will not stop us. He will hand us over to our enemy, as he did with Israel (*1 Cor 5:5; 1 Tim 1:20*). When this happens, suffering, enslavement to sin, and spiritual oppression will always result. God is willing to allow us to experience the pain of sin so that we will forsake the natural way of our flesh in favour of the way of victory – the cross (*Php 3:3*). Godly sorrow brings about repentance that leads to deliverance from sin and its enslavement (*2 Cor 7:10*). God's ways always work out for the best in the end (*Rom 8:28-29*).

God gave Israel victory over their enemies through "judges" that delivered the people from sin's suffering. Who is the Christian's Judge? The Lord Jesus Christ – the only one that can deliver from the power, enslavement and oppression of sin and Satan. Faith in Christ always brings victory (*1 Jn 5:4*).

Beware, lest you become complacent. Notwithstanding the security of our salvation, and past spiritual victories, we can easily fall back into old, sinful ways if we don't continue to trust in Christ and His leading. Part of living victoriously is being "watchful" (*1 Thess 5:5-8; 1 Pet 5:8*).

"...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness..."
(Ephesians 5:11)