



# Judges

Part #2 –

Leadership vacuum

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# Introduction

## Key Scriptures

- Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? – Judges 1:1
- And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. – Judges 1:2
- And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him. – Judges 1:3



# Introduction – Cont'd

## Key Scriptures

- And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they slew the Canaanites that inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah. – Judges 1:17
- And the LORD was with Judah; and he drove out *the inhabitants of* the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. – Judges 1:19
- Neither did Manasseh drive out *the inhabitants of* Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land.... – Judges 1:27-35



# Keys

*Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? – Judges 1:1*

- Each tribe had to possess its own, first by the sword, and ultimately by the plow and the spade.
- They inquired of the Lord for the land
- Now
- Asking the right question
- Snares, goads, thorns and pricks



# In this lesson

- Praise – strength and strategy (A directive to advance the cause)
- Partnerships were forged
- Progress through momentum
- Progress & Vows
- Proclamation
- Peace Accords
- Pursuits
- Problems ahead
- Mercy



# Praise – Strength & Strategy

*Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? – Judges 1:1*

*And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. – Judges 1:2*

- The hidden power and strength in praise
- A directive to go up to take what was given – not a suggestion
- Praise synonymous with doing battle and advancing the cause
- The adversary is identified
- Judah went up, but the Lord delivered



# Partnerships

*And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him. – Judges 1:3*

- Partnership, Accords & Alignments
- They partnered up for momentum, for power, in pursuit of victory, for perseverance, for persistence and endurance, for progression in order to maintain the purpose
- **They took strongholds – Adonibezek in Bezek (lightning)**



# Progress

*And they found Adonibezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites. - Judges 1:5*

- The Lord delivered two nations in one battle – two for one!
- The Lord delivers them in large numbers
- What goes around comes around
- Registered victories
- Caleb gets his allotted portion





# Progress & Vows

*And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. - Judges 1:12*

*And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. - Judges 1:13*

- Be careful what you ask for?
- An unlikely union and the power of vows – cousins marrying each other!
- For I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back. – Judges 11:35; Ecc 5:3-7



# Proclamation

*And it came to pass, when she came to him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted from off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou? – Judges 1:14*

*And she said unto him, Give me a blessing: for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the nether springs. Judges 1:15*

- Give me - The specificity of the request
- What we are holding back by our in-action or hesitation



# Peaceful Accords

*And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lieth in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people. – Judges 1:16*

- The in-laws of Moses join with Judah
- The counsel of Jethro, Hobab – Exodus 18:15, 18:17
- There was an earlier invitation to join made by Moses – See Numbers 10:29
- The wife of Heber the Kenite – Jael will later deliver Israel from his enemy – Judges 4:11,17



# Pursuits

*And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they slew the Canaanites that inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah. – Judges 1:17*

- They took Gaza
- The Lord was with Judah – But they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley – See Judges 1:19
- Trouble with compromise – Benjamin – See Judges 1:21
- Joseph entered his provision



# Problems ahead

## **Failure to Complete the Conquest – resulting in role reversals**

*Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. - Judges 1:27*

- In their strength, they did not drive them out but only subjected them – Judges 1:28
- Reaching the next generation in order to advance the cause and maintain the blessing
  - Manasseh – Ephraim – Zebulun – Asher – Naphtali – Dan
- They wept but they did not change – Judges 2:4,5



# Problems ahead – Cont'd

## Apostatized Children of Israel

*And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. - Judges 2:10*

- They forsook the Lord God of their fathers
- They followed other gods – of the gods of the people around them
- They bowed themselves unto them
- They provoked the Lord to anger
- They forsook the Lord
- They served Baal (supreme male divinity) and Ashtaroth (goddess of love, war, fertility) – **This apostate exposure will continue from generation to generation.**



# Mercy

## **Apostatized Children of Israel**

*And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. - Judges 2:10*

- They forsook the Lord God of their fathers
- They followed other gods – of the gods of the people around them
- They bowed themselves unto them



# Mercy – Cont'd

## **Apostatized Children of Israel – Cont'd**

*And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. - Judges 2:17*

*And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. - Judges 2:18*

- They provoked the Lord to anger
- They forsook the Lord
- They served Baal (supreme male divinity) and Ashtaroth (goddess of love, war, fertility) – **This apostate exposure will continue from generation to generation.**





# Proving

## **Apostatized Children of Israel – Cont'd**

*And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; - Judges 2:20*

- The grace of God was withheld from them
- They became strengthless, weak and like ordinary men – Judges 16:17
- They lost their preferred status – no longer was the dread or fear of them upon their adversaries – Deuteronomy 2:25



# Conclusion

## **From the pages of Judges**

- Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. - Judges 2:16



# Next Week

We will continue next week, still in the book of Judges