

“Pitiful Patterns in Apostasy”

The Book of Judges

Last week we were at Liberty University... ***“Building Champions for Christ!”***

Last week YOU were at the entry way to the Promised Land with Joshua....

Joshua 23: 2 Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them, “I am now old and well advanced in years. **3** And **you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake**, for it is **the Lord your God who has fought for you... 4** Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain. **5 The Lord your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you. 6** Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, 7 that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, 8 but you shall **cling to the Lord your God** just as you have done to this day. **9** For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day. **10** One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, just as he promised you. 11 Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God. 12 **For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, 13** know for **certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish** from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you. **14** “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, **and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. 15** But **just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, 16** if you **transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods** and bow down to them. Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”

Joshua 24: 14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and

*in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served... and serve the Lord. 15 ...choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.***

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went... Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good."

*21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." 22 Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said, "**Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.**"*

24 And the people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.

T/S: Today we'll walk thru the Book of Judges... roughly 300-350 years of history...

Judges 1: 2 The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." 3 Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you." So Simeon went with him. 4 Judah went up, and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek....

17 Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. 18 And Judah took Gaza with its territory and Ashkelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory. 19 Now the LORD was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots. 20 Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak. 21 But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so

the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. 23 The house of Joseph spied out Bethel. 24 The spies saw a man coming out of the city and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city and we will treat you kindly." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free. 26 The man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and named it Luz which is its name to this day.

God's Pattern of Promise & Power

God makes promise to Adam & Eve... upholds His promise Blessings & Curses

God makes promise to Noah... upholds His promise with Blessings & Curses

God makes promise to Abraham... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God makes promise to Isaac... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God makes promise to Jacob... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God keeps Job in the dark... reveals His glory through Blessing & Curses!

God makes promise to Moses... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God makes promise to Caleb... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God makes promise to Joshua... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

God makes promise to "Israel"... upholds His promise with Blessing & Curses

T/S = Judges 2:1-2 = *Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt & brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, **2 and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.'** **But you have not obeyed my voice.** What is this you have done?*

"Judges" Pitiful Pattern:

2:3 = *So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, & their gods shall be a snare to you."*

2:11-13 = *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They abandoned the Lord and served... (other gods)*

2:16-17 = *Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, & they did not do so.*

2:19 = *But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.*

3:6 = *And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.*

3:7 = *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served... (other gods)*

3:12 = *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord.*

4:1 = *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died.*

6:1 = *The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.*

6:9-10 = *I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 And I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.' But you have not obeyed my voice."*

8:24-27 = Gideon said to them, "Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from your spoil." **25** And they answered, "We will willingly give them." ...and every man threw in the earrings from their spoil. **26** And the weight of the golden earrings was 1,700 shekels of gold... **27** And Gideon made an ephod (idol) of it and put it in his city... And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.

8:33 = As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.

10:6-8a = The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him. **7** So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites, **8** and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year.

13:1 = And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years

17:6 = In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

21:25 = In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Look-for & Learn-from the Pitiful Patterns in Judges!

Judges 2: Israel Serves Baals

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, **12** and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger. **13** So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroath. **14** The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He

gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.

16 Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as their fathers. 18 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 because of those who oppressed and afflicted them. 19 But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers and has not listened to My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the LORD allowed those nations to remain, not driving them out quickly; and He did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

God gave us Judges to help us grow in Christ-likeness!

3 Direct Applications:

- A. Not all of "Israel" is "ISRAEL."
- B. Not all who assume they are children of God are adopted.
- C. Not all "churches" that claim to be Christian are biblical....

Pitiful P. A. T. T. E. R. N. in Apostasy

Power. Active. Trouble. Trials. Explicit. Rescue. Neglect.

VIDEO: Paul Washer (Carnal Churches)

P. = POWER of God (providence)

Genesis 1:1... Flood, Job, Abe, Egypt, Jericho...

A. = ACTIVE God (He promises: Blessings & Curses)

T. = TROUBLE / Relapse (SIN – “Fast Fall”)

Why??? Answer = Disobey & Forsake!

- A. Disobey = lack of love for God (1 John 5:3)
- B. Forsake = greater love of world (1 John 2:15)

PATTERN of Disobedience & Forsakeness

1. Incomplete obedience = Disobedience
2. “Add-on” to obedience = Disobedience
3. 99% obedience = 100% Disobedience
4. Selfish:
 - a. Fear
 - b. Laziness
 - c. Complacency
 - d. Lusts/Desires
5. Love for the WORLD:
 - a. Temporary vs. Eternal
 - b. Self vs. Savior
 - c. Me vs. You
 - d. Pleasure vs. Treasure
 - e. Treasure out of Pleasure
 - f. P.C vs. JC
 - g. Face-book vs. His Book
 - h. Staying vs. Going
 - i. Consumers vs. Christians

- j. Church vs. Christ
- k. Religion vs. Relationship
- l. Shove vs. Love
- m. Your kingdom vs. His...
- n. "I want" vs. I serve.
- o. "Give me!" vs. Thank You
- p. Lost vs. Found
- q. Hell vs. Heaven
- r. Deceived vs. Received
- s. Deceivers vs. Believers
- t. Perfection vs. Passion
- u. In-charge vs. In-Christ!!!

T. = TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS, & TESTS for the people

Proverbs 29:1 = *A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed without remedy.*

E. = EXPLICIT & EARNEST REPENTENCE by the people

"Lord's Prayer:" God, have mercy on me, a sinner!

Warning! **Romans 1:24** = *"He gave them over to their sinful heart's desire"*

R. = RESCUED by God (mercy, grace & often forgiveness)

Example = Gideon... least of the least...

- A. God is with you mighty warrior...
- B. 450:1 (BRIDGE / Q.A.C.)
- C. Faithful obedience = miraculous...
- D. God gets ALL the glory!

*** The GOSPEL *** *** The CROSS *** *** You/Me ***

N. = NEGLECT of God (SIN – “Slow Fade”)

Example = Gideon...

8:24-27 = *Gideon said to them, “Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from your spoil.”* **25** *And they answered, “We will willingly give them.” ...and every man threw in the golden earrings from their spoil.* **26** *And the weight of the golden earrings was 1,700 shekels of gold...* **27** *And Gideon made an ephod (idol) of it and put it in his city... And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.*

8:33 = *As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.*

T/S: Let’s look at Jesus’ ministry in the New Testament...

9 out of 10 Lepers = 9 healed clean... 1 healed WHOLE!

John 5 “paralytic” =

v. 6 = “Do you wish to get well?”

v. 8 = “Get up. Pick up your mat and walk.”

v.14 = **“Behold! You have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”**

VIDEO: “Harvey Carey” (BE the “BE-ing” Church!)

Close:

FINAL SUMMARY.... John 15...

If you do not abide in Him (evidenced by faithful, living fruit), you can do nothing and will be cast into the fire as kindling... And your love for the world, (along with all the corresponding corruptions & compromises that accompany such spiritual adultery), will be the starter & sustainer of your fiery faithless furnace!

If God is speaking to YOU today... change your PATTERN and join the rest of us who have truly been “rescued.”

Come climb into the Life-boat that is Christ!

Admit & Repent...

Believe... Receive...

Love... Live...

Glorify & Multiply!