

BOOK OF JUDGES
WHAT COMES NEXT?–PT 2
JUDGES 1:17-36

Introduction

After properly admonishing and warning **ISRAEL** about being complacent, **JOSHUA** died and in the absence of his leadership there seemed to be a question about “**WHAT COMES NEXT?**” That often happens when a leader passes of the scene!

In Part 1 of the message on this Chapter, we covered the first 16 verses.

Tonight we pick up in *verse 17*.

I. WE SEE THE TRIBE OF JUDAH RECIPROCATED THE HELP THAT THE TRIBE OF SIMEON GAVE THEM! (Vs 17–19a)

JUDAH had **PROMISED** to help **SIMEON** if **SIMEON** helped him! And **JUDAH** did not forget his **PROMISE** to **SIMEON**, when the time came to return the favor. Therefore, the **LORD** was with them!

Is it possible that some folks do not do well in life because they fail to fulfill a commitment to help someone who helped them? It’s possible!

II. WE SEE JUDAH’S FAILURE IN THE VALLEY! (Vs 19b)

The first half of *verse 19* sounds wonderful, doesn’t it!? But, then we see a **FAILURE** mentioned here in the last half of *verse 19* !
A FAILURE to drive out the inhabitants of the valley!

Well, whose **FAILURE** was this? Well **JUDGING** from what we know of the **LORD** and **JUDGING** from the lame excuse that is recorded here, it was a **FAILURE** on the part of **JUDAH**!

If the **LORD** was with **JUDAH** (and **HE** was!) then they could have done any thing **HE COMMANDED** them, including driving out these inhabitants! And make no mistake! The **LORD** had **COMMANDED** **them to drive out all the wicked, heathen inhabitants of the land!**

After all, think about it! What are chariots of iron to the **LORD GOD WHO** brought the ten plagues on **EGYPT**, **WHO** divided the **RED SEA**, **WHO** provided for **ISRAEL’S** every need in a wilderness, and **WHO** had been with **ISRAEL** every step of the way in their **CONQUEST** up to this point **NOT FAILING** them even one time?

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IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

Where have we seen that question before? The **LORD** posed it to their **FATHER ABRAHAM** in *Genesis 18:14a* regarding **HIS** ability to cause a son to be born to **ABRAHAM** and **SARAH**!

Later on the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** would begin a **PRAYER** with these similar words: *Jeremiah 32:17*–“*Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*”

And the **LORD** began answering **JEREMIAH’S PRAYER** with: *Jeremiah 32:27*–“*Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?*”

And the **ANGEL GABRIEL** said these words to virgin **MARY** regarding all the miraculous things he spoke of to her: *Luke 1:37*–“*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*”

So, why do we sometimes **FAIL TO TRUST** the **LORD** to help us in our present with some of our problems when we **KNOW BOTH WHO HE IS AND HIS GREAT POWER** and when **HE** has **PROVEN HIMSELF** in our past?

Look back to *JOSHUA 17:14-18*. That is what **JOSHUA** said to both **EPHRAIM** and **MANASSEH**.

JOSHUA knew the problem they would face in the **LAND OF CANAAN**. But **JOSHUA** also knew that **if the LORD delighted in them, they could do anything!**

In *Joshua 23*, we saw that **JOSHUA** reminded **ISRAEL** of what the **LORD** had already done!

Joshua 23:9–“*For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.*”

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However, the children of **ISRAEL** were having troubles doing as the **LORD GOD** commanded them even during **JOSHUA’S** time, *Joshua 18:3*— “*And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?*”

Listen closely, **ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE!** And **LIMITED OBEDIENCE** results in **LIMITED BLESSINGS!**

Why couldn’t **JUDAH** drive out the inhabitants of the valley like they did on the mountain? Because **JUDAH’S EYES** were fixed on the iron chariots rather than on **ALMIGHTY GOD!**

Just like **PETER** in *Matthew 14:30* when he was walking on the water out to **JESUS**, but then the boisterous wind distracted him from looking at **JESUS** and he began to sink!

We need to keep our eyes **FOCUSED** on **JESUS**, not on our **PROBLEMS!** The **LORD** is **BIGGER THAN ALL OUR PROBLEMS!** *Bigger Than Any Mountain*

(Bill and Gloria Gaither—Gethsemane Quartet)

*Bigger Than All My Problems, Bigger Than All My Fears.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.
Bigger Than All My Questions, Bigger Than Anything.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.*

*Bigger Than All The Shadows That Fall Across My Path.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.
Bigger Than My Confusion, Bigger Than Anything.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.*

*Bigger Than All The Giants Of Fear And Unbelief.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.
Bigger Than All My Hangups, Bigger Than Anything.
God Is Bigger Than Any Mountain That I Can Or Cannot See.*

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The **PROMISED LAND** was **FREELY GIVEN TO ISRAEL**, but they had to fight **BATTLES** and take it into their **POSSESSION**. Notice *Judges 1:2* again! They had to go in and **POSSESS THEIR POSSESSIONS!**

If the **LORD** had already delivered the land into **JUDAH’S** hand, why did **JUDAH** have to go up, fight the **CANAANITES**, and take the land?

The **LORD** wants **HIS PEOPLE ACTIVELY INVOLVED** in what **HE** is doing in their midst!

THEY NEEDED TO LEARN TO OBEY HIM!
THEY NEEDED TO LEARN TO TRUST HIM!
THEY NEEDED TO LEARN TO DEPEND ON HIM!
THEY NEEDED TO LEARN TO GLORIFY HIM!
THEY NEEDED TO GROW IN HIM!

We have so much that is **GIVEN** to us **IN CHRIST!**
We saw **EIGHT BENEFITS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH** the last two Sunday Evenings. They are ours but we have to **APPROPRIATE THEM!**

When we **BELIEVERS POSSESS OUR POSSESSIONS IN CHRIST...**

WE LEARN TO OBEY HIM!
WE LEARN TO TRUST HIM!
WE LEARN TO DEPEND ON HIM!
WE LEARN TO GLORIFY HIM!
WE GROW IN HIM!

III. WE SEE A CONTINUED FAILURE TO CONSISTENTLY HEED THE LORD! (Vs 20-36)

- A. CALEB Obeyed The LORD! (Vs 20)**
- B. The Children Of BENJAMIN Did Not Fully Obey The LORD! (Vs 21)**
- C. The House Of JOSEPH (MANASSEH AND EPHRAIM) Did Not Fully Obey The LORD! (Vs 22-29)**
Cf. Joshua 17:11-13; 16:10

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- D. The Children Of Zebulun Did Not Fully Obey The LORD!**
(Vs 30)

- E. The Children Of Asher Did Not Fully Obey The LORD!**
(Vs 31-32)

- F. The Children Of Naphtali Did Not Fully Obey The LORD!**
(Vs 33)

- G. The Children Of Dan Did Not Fully Obey The LORD!**
(Vs 34-36)

Conclusion

So, Is our life as a **BELIEVER** going to be like the **BOOK OF JOSHUA** or the **BOOK OF JUDGES**?

Just as the **BOOK OF JOSHUA** was mostly about **WINNING**, so the **BOOK OF JUDGES** is mostly about **SINNING**.

OBEDIENCE or **DISOBEDIENCE** is what makes **ALL** the difference!