

tribe is also mentioned. They succeeded, in part, and these successes are listed:

- 1) Over Bezek (vv. 4-7).
- 2) Over Jerusalem (v. 8).
- 3) Over other cities (vv. 9-19).

But there was failure. They were unable to dislodge the enemy from the valleys (v. 19). Apparently, they were no match for the "chariots of iron" or were frightened to engage this sort of armour. Where was their faith? Could not God fight in the valley as well as on the mountain?

b. For other tribes vv. 21-36.

The rest of the chapter tells the story. It is a mixture of advance and occupation, but also a record of areas which were never gained. The list is given (vv. 21, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33). Dan is forced to stay in the mountains (v. 34). Nothing is said about the tribes on the east of Jordan. Scripture does tell us they had their problems, too (Num. 22-24). The basic problem for all of them seems to be they were unable to get to the rich lowlands for occupation. These were the strongholds of the enemy. Their failure was a lack of faith to do what God had said.

Conclusion That is the account. The land was given. It was conquered. Allotments were made to all the tribes. Occupation was God's command. But what happened? Incomplete victory! This was in direct disobedience to God (Ex. 23:2-33; 34:10-16; Num. 33:51-56; Deut. 7:1-5). This disobedience ultimately caused all kinds of problems. Why? Because God was concerned about intermarriages, false gods, and involvement with the people of the land. Rather than a separate position unto God, the people were dreadfully contaminated. Beloved, the same problem faces the church of Christ today. We cannot identify with people or organizations which default the truth of the Gospel and His Word. To justify such cooperations is direct disobedience to the Word (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1). Disobedience is a key issue with God. Is it with you?

*Do what God says
or you will have results
God says.*

1.
2.
3.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

"Incomplete Victory"

Judges 1:1-36

Introduction

1. Here is a book named after its major contents--the history of the period of the judges in Israel. It is a period of about 340 years between 1390 and 1050 B.C. Although it is an historical book, the spiritual lessons which it provides are enormous.

2. The book does not have an author specifically indicated. There is good evidence internally that Samuel wrote it. The Talmud affirms the same. It was at a time when Israel may have had Samuel in semi-retirement.

3. It appears that there is a general introduction (1:1-3:5) and this is followed by the main body of the book which deals with the judges (3:7-16:31). The final portion provides two illustrative accounts of sin within Israel. Broadly speaking, there are two sections: one of Israel's disobedience and its external consequences; the other of the nation's disobedience and its internal consequences.

4. The watchword for the book is disobedience. There is much failure expressed. The major thrust of the book is to demonstrate that the nation did not experience the blessing available to it (Obadiah 17; Eph. 1:3). It is the testimony of God against a nation which could have been, but wasn't. The application to a modern believer is patent. The first level of the account is given in the opening chapter. Mark how disobedience, an aspect of sin, is elucidated:

Chap 17-21

1. LAND SITUATION

It is important to know the historical background for the present chapter. It concerns the invasion of the promised land. The Book of Joshua is an essential to the understanding of the Book of Judges.

a. The land

Clearly God outlines the extent of the land which Joshua conquered (Josh. 11:16-23). The extremities of

the land, both south and north, are given (vv. 16, 17). The defense strength of the land had been broken by the invading armies of Israel. Apparently, one major section had escaped the invasion--the coastal region (Josh. 13:1-6). It is true that Joshua had enjoyed meaningful military contacts at Gaza (Josh. 10:41) and at Dor (Josh. 11:2; 12:23), but aside from these places, the major invasion routes were internal and not coastal.

b. The problem

Succinctly stated it was this: with the backbone of the enemy broken militarily, all that Isaiah needed to do was occupy the land. They were at Gilgal **in the Jordan valley** (Josh. 10:43). Now they needed to move from the main camp and begin to live in all the land which the Lord had given them. It should have been an easy thing to do, but they didn't do it!

2. LAND DIVISION

When the major fighting was over, the next move to occupy the land was the division of it. The allotment of the land had to be made for settlement. The manner in which this was to be done had been settled by God on the east side of Jordan (Num. 26:53-56; 33:54). It was up to the leadership to get the job done. The record is provided to show what they did.

a. On the east of Jordan

It was here that three segments of the Israel nation desired occupation: Reuben, Gad, half of Manasseh. This was done under the supervision of Moses (Num. 32:1-42; Deut. 3:13-17). It was agreed that these sections of the nation would assist the others in the fighting west of Jordan (Num. 32:20-23).

b. On the west of Jordan

There were two sections to this allotment west of the Jordan. The first was from Gilgal and included:

1) Judah (Josh. 15:1-5). A long list is given of their cities (Josh. 15:20-63). Judah had an extensive piece of property.

2) Ephraim (Josh. 16:1-10).

3) Half Manasseh (Josh. 17:1-11).

c. On the west of Jordan

This second allotment on this side of the Jordan was made at Shiloh. This may have been precipitated by the desire to get a permanent place for the tabernacle which was now provided in the land of Ephraim at Shiloh.

1) Benjamin (Josh. 18:10-18).

2) Simeon (Josh. 19:1-9). Simeon is given single cities within Judah. Two reasons may be advanced for this kind of allotment: a) Simeon was a small tribe (22,000 at the second census, Num. 26:14). b) It was predicted by Jacob that he would be scattered in Israel (Gen. 49:7).

3) Zebulun (Josh. 19:10-16).

4) Issachar (Josh. 19:17-23).

5) Asher (Josh. 19:24-31).

6) Naphtali (Josh. 19:32-39).

7) Dan (Josh. 19:40-48).

What more could be done? The land had been fought for, allotted and now it was for full occupation.

3. LAND OCCUPATION

This is where the Book of Judges comes in the picture. God had given the land in promise (Gen. 12:1-3). Joshua had led the nation in a triumph over the land and allotments had been made (Joshua). Occupation of the land was next on the agenda, BUT! Look at the record:

a. For Judah and Simeon Judges 1:1-20.

This is a strong illustration of what actually took place. Lots of details are provided. Since Simeon is included in the strategic area assigned to Judah, that