

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 1:1-3

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION" – PART 1

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Following the Lord, Righteousness, Judgment

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 1:1-3

Statement of Textual Summation and Theme

TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION

It seems to be The Mantra of Every New Political Season.

It's Time for a "New Direction"

But New Directions are Not Always Good

Directions

A New Direction Can Be a Good Thing

if that new direction will lead you closer to the Lord.

Psalm 144:15

Happy *are* the people whose God *is* the LORD!

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

The time and place of the Book of Judges!

Judges covers a time span from about 1380 to 1050 B.C.

It was a Turbulent / Transitional Period of Israel's History. From the coming into the land under Joshua to the Beginning of the Period of the Kings.

(1) - By this time Israel had already come out of Egypt, (2) the 40 years of "boot-camp-wilderness" was now behind them, (3) they had been under the leadership training of Moses and Joshua.

Israel was in the Land of Promise

but they lacked the knowledge of God and they needed godly leadership

Bible student - mark this well.

Nationally - The Bible is a Book about The Nation of Israel

There are 2,700 verses in the Bible

Israel is Named 2,7000 Times in the Bible

Jerusalem is named 811 times

There has always been a hatred toward Israel in the world and will be.
there will always be a hatred against those who support Israel, always will be.
and there will be a hatred against the Bible, always will be.

But Why?

Because the Issues Surrounding Israel in the World
are Spiritual Issues.

ISRAEL IS A PEOPLE AND A LAND OF PROMISE!

But Who Made The Promise?

(that is the issue of epic proportions)

**The God of the Bible, Yahweh, The Lord
says that He is the God of Israel and that Israel is His !**

Exodus 5:1

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh,
“Thus says **the LORD God of Israel**: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a
feast to Me in the wilderness.’ ”

Joshua 8:30

Now Joshua built an altar to **the LORD God of Israel** in Mount Ebal,

Judges 5:3

“Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, *even I*, will sing to the LORD;
I will sing praise to **the LORD God of Israel**.

Luke 1:68-69

“Blessed *is the Lord God of Israel*, For He has visited and redeemed His people, :69
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In
the house of His servant David,

It is The Bible That Says;

The Lord God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Never does The Bible say that The Lord is the God of
Ishmael, or Mohammad or Osama

Mark 12:26

out of the *burning* bush the Lord spoke into Moses saying: “*I am the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’ ? :27 not the God of the dead, but the God of
the living.

Deuteronomy 1:8

See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore
to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants
after them.’

For the Nation, It Was a Time of
Transition for Sure.

In The Book of Joshua

Joshua 24:28-32

So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance. :29 Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* one hundred and ten years old. :30 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which *is* in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. :31 Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. :32 The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Application Here;

The Land Had Been Taken by Joshua,

but there were independent, pagan strongholds that could only be removed by battles.

Listen Dear Christian,

Our Joshua, Jesus - Conquered the Enemy for Us.

He Brought us in to the Kingdom, but for each of us, there are individual battles that need to be engaged against isolated enemy strongholds.

Who Were These Judges?

Israel was a loose confederacy of tribes and the judges came out of these tribes. some of them were military leaders and some civil leaders. but all of them were to watch over Israel by directing them toward the Lord.

Why is this book of the Bible important to us today?

And as a church, what can we learn?

**JOSHUA WOULD PERHAPS POINT OUT TO THEM AGAIN
THE DIRECTION OF THEIR NEW REALITY.**

- (1) *that the land had been given by **promise**.*
- (2) *that it was given through **grace**.*
- (3) *that it was to be taken by **force**, and*
- (4) *that it was to be done by **faith**.*

TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION

1.) Remember

v.1

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

REMEMBER THIS...

1a.) The Lord said they were His people

v.1

Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that **the children of Israel** asked the LORD,

He had told them from the beginning that he had called them out from among the world.

Deuteronomy 7:1-8

"When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ... :5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. :6 "For you **are a holy people** to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has **chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure** above all the peoples on the face of the earth. :7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; :8 **but because the LORD loves you,**

I Wish That Was True for Me Pastor Jack

but because the LORD loves you - - Romans 10:13

For "**whosoever** calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

I Would Love to Believe That Pastor Jack

but because the LORD loves you - - John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

but because the LORD loves you - - 1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved (introduced himself to) us.

But Can He Love Me Pastor Jack?

The Same is True Today For the Christian.
The Lord has Declared you to be His very Own.

But How Does That Work for Me?

He Wants Us to Run to Him for Everything - His Way !!!

REMEMBER THIS...

1b.) *The Lord did all that was needed* v.1

saying, “**Who** shall be first to go up **for us** against the Canaanites to fight against them?”

THE LORD HAD PROMISED THE VICTORY

*but why would Israel have to fight at all?
why not make it easy for God's people?
but why would Israel have to fight at all?
why not make it easy for God's people?*

THE LORD HAS DONE EXACTLY WHAT HE NEEDED TO DO.

But Why The Struggle ?

THE ANSWER IS

Because Godly Character Building and a Godly Christian Walk with God
Involved warfare and persecution in and from this world.

The Enemies in Your Life

they're for your victories, for your advancement, for your exploits with God.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 3:10-12

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, :11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. :12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. - **remember, Jesus said "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, :3 so that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. - **remember, Jesus said "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, :22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." - **remember, Jesus said "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, - **remember, Jesus said "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

The Fact is, The Believer Doesn't Live Here Anymore - in
This World

can you feel at home here when...

the evils are what they are?
the government is what it is?
the people are how they are?

Don't You Feel Like a Stranger Here?

But why is there such a struggle still in my life?
why didn't God just destroy the enemy like He did at Sodom or Gomorrah?

The Enemies in Your Life;
make up the playing field for victory.

"Sin Is Here"

in this world and it's not going away.
we're not to play with it, hug it, hold it, or flirt with it,

WE'RE TO RESIST IT.

2 Timothy 2:22

Now flee from youthful lusts, (become a fugitive) and pursue (seize onto) righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:4

And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit =

to bring yourself under another. to yield, to take covering, to be under the shadow of.

Resist =

436. ajnqi ÷ sthmi anthistemi, *anth-is'-tay-mee*; from 473 and 2476; to stand up against, i.e. to oppose with all might: — to withstand.

REMEMBER THIS...

1c.) The Lord will do all that He said v.1

"Who shall be first? = *the Lord, then us...*

Israel was right where God wanted them to be,
crying out and seeking....

According to Israel;
God was not where They wanted Him to Be !

TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION

2.) *Recognize This...*

v.2

And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up.
Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."

RECOGNIZE THIS...

2a.) *We have our battles to fight*

v.2

And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up.
Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."

This Issue;

The Canaanites Were in the Land

a blood-thirsty, pagan culture that practiced the most vile and dangerous forms of religion. From Canaan naturally came the Canaanite clans - Sidon, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites etc. According to the Bible account, "Later the Canaanite clans scattered as far south as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, and as far as Lash." (Genesis 10:19). It's in this described area that the conflict between the Israelites and the "peoples of the land" began, and has continued right to the present day. **You can turn on your television news and witness this ancient Biblical struggle continuing almost any day with your own two eyes.**

there are deadly Canaanites in our lives.

Amplified / 1 Corinthians 10:13-14

But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

2 Corinthians 10:4

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Romans 6:13

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. :14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

W.R. NEWELL STATES;

*Sadly the Book of Judges is Better Entitled,
The Book of Failure because it follows Israel's one unnecessary failure
to follow the Lord, after another!*

**"BECAUSE", SAYS NEWELL, THEY FAILED TO BELIEVE, TRUST AND ACT UPON
GOD'S DESIRE FOR THEM."**

Am I Failing to **believe** in God's desire for me? = **explain !!!**

Am I Failing to **trust** in God's desire for me? = **explain !!!**

Am I Failing to **act** upon God's desire for me? = **explain !!!**

The Lord Has a Desire for Each of Us

His calling for your life - what are you to be doing with your life

>>> This Could Determine if You Even Know God <<<

doing things for God doesn't save you, but those things exhibit a reality.

Revelation 21:4

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Botched Opportunities, Our Failures at believing, trusting and acting upon
God's desire for my life...

We Will Cry for Having Missed Open Doors of
Sharing Christ.

The Book of Failures,
The Book of Judges Ends Like The Book of Revelation Warns

Judges 21:25

In those days *there was* no king in Israel;
everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

RECOGNIZE THIS...

2b.) That the battles are to be won

v.2

And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up.
Indeed **I have delivered** the land into his hand."

The children of Israel had seen awesome and miraculous victories with the Lord...

...Israel had Seen the Pillar and the Cloud of God's Glory and Defense.
Israel had seen the Red Sea part and the Egyptian forces destroyed.

They Had Seen God Defend His People.

In the New Testament, We See a Different Manifestation of God's Power to Protect
and to Provide.

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **:28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **:29** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

We See The Lord Watching Over Us as the Battles are Won
Using His People

RECOGNIZE THIS...

2c.) That winning is what the Lord has for us

v.2

And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up.
Indeed **I have delivered** the land into his hand."

The Book of Judges Records More Failures Than Victories.

Because The People Were
Willingly Ignorant of God's Word.

Judges 2:7-12

So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, **who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.** :8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died *when he was* one hundred and ten years old. :9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath He'eres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Ga'ash. :10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.** :11 Then (or because of that) the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; :12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they (America today) followed foreign gods from *among* the gods of the nations who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

Do You Think God is Being Provoked to Anger in America?
Do You Think God is Happy, Blessed by America?

"Mom, Dad - The Lord Has Ordained You,
Called You and Requires of You to Teach
Your Children the His-Story of God"

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! :5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. :6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. :7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. :8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. :9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. :10 "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build.....

.....:11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— :12 *then* beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

What Do You Think The Public School System is For

President Thomas Jefferson, was first elected president of the Washington, D.C. public school board, while under Jefferson's leadership used the Bible as the official book for reading in the classroom.

"The Bible is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed." ^[SEP]Patrick Henry

"It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom." - *Horace Greely*

"I have always said, and will always say, that studious perusal of The Sacred Volume will make us better citizens." - *Thomas Jefferson*

A study done by the **American Political Science Review** (secular group) on the political documents of the Founding era, found that 94% of the documents that went into the Founding ERA of public education in America were based on the Bible, and of that, 34% of the contents were direct quotations from the Bible. 88% of students nationwide are educated in the public school system using the Bible. It should be noted that The Bible was used as a source book for the foundation and blueprint for the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the public educational system, and history until the 1960's.

Compared to Early Days in America,

Our Children are Learning Next to Nothing About America's History.

abc news - "stupid in America" by John Stossel

but they're learning about Islam, and condom use, and new math

TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION

3.) Renew This...

v.3

Getting Back to What The Lord Has Said

Judges 1:3

So (not good) Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.

RENEW THIS...

3a.) That you are His special people

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own **peculiar** people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **:10** who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Titus 2:14

who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Peculiar 4041. per iou/sioß periousios, per-ee-oo´-see-os; from the present participle feminine of a compound of 4012 and 1510; being beyond usual, i.e. special (one's own): — peculiar.

RENEW THIS...

3b.) That sinful living will disqualify you v.3

So (not good) Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.

In Modern Christianity; *This Is So Common and So Wrong*

they failed to wait upon the Lord but leaned on human logic

Without fail - in the book of judges,
when Israel forgot God, they did so only
after:

- (1) they had peace in and around their borders
- (2) when they had become wealthy as a nation.
- (3) then they allowed foreign gods in and among their children.
 - (4) they were attacked by enemies.
- (5) they were taken captive and enslaved by pagan cultures
 - (6) they cried out to God in repentance.
- (7) They were delivered from their enemies by war and warfare.

"In this day of gathering storms, as moral deterioration of political power spreads its growing infection, it is essential that every spiritual force be mobilized to defend and preserve the religious base upon which this nation is founded; for it has been that base which has been the motivating impulse to our moral and national growth. history fails to record a single precedent in which a nation subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual reawakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster."

- General Douglas MacArthur

RENEW THIS...

3c.) That now is the time to be right with God

The Book of Judges, of Failures
is to teach us that we don't have to mess up.

we must learn from others mistakes and victories !

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

that's why godly grandpa's can be one of the most powerful
people on earth

Little Johnny Needs to Hear from You Grandpa.

————— *End of Study* —————