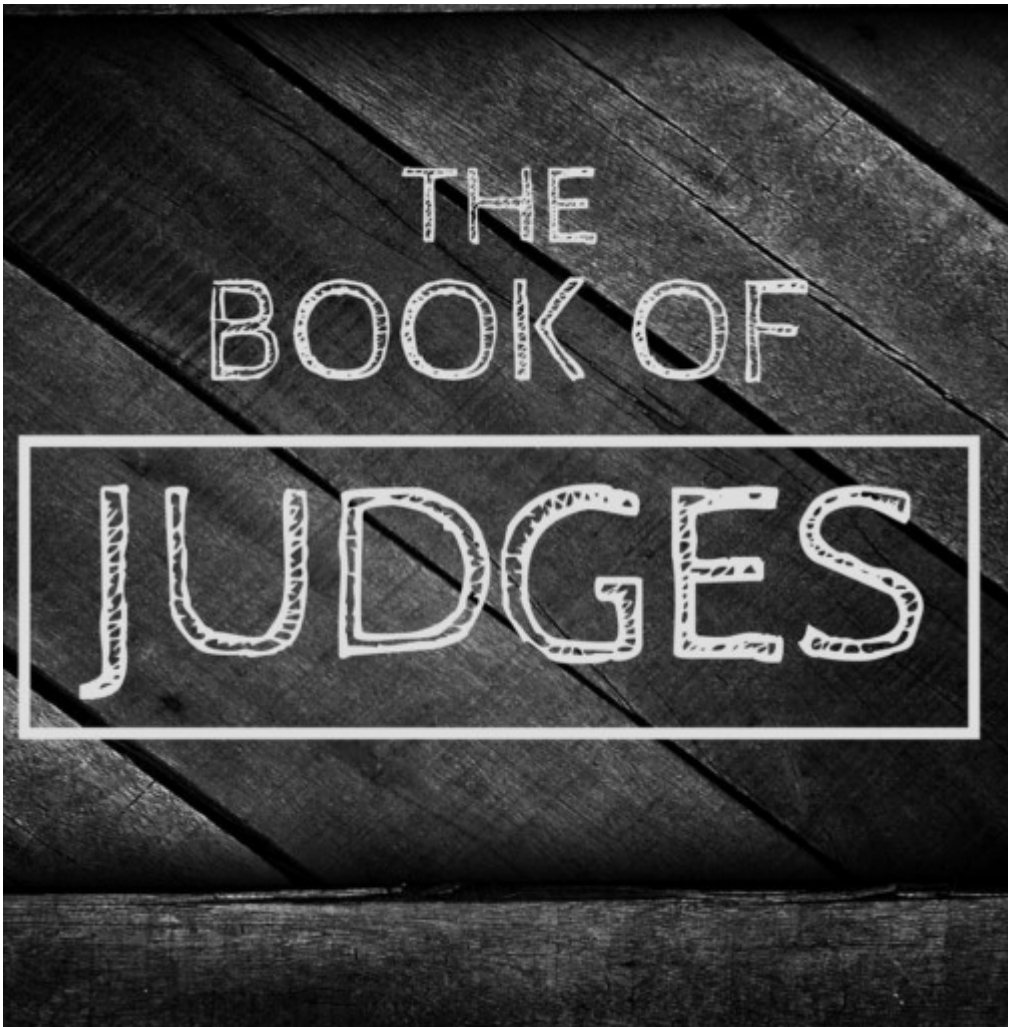


# Let's Worship God

31st Jan. - 5th Feb. 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 2:1-5 - The Angel of the LORD**

As chapter two of Judges begins, we are introduced to the "Angel of the LORD." The Hebrew word translated as "angel" means "messenger," and, therefore, could refer to a prophet or a heavenly angel. However, "Angel of the LORD" is used to indicate that God, Himself, is appearing as His own messenger. This is the first of three times this will happen in Judges (see chapters 6 and 13), and because we know that no one has seen God the Father, but it is the Son who makes Him known (John 1:18), we understand these to be a pre-incarnate appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ - when the Son of God appeared on earth before the time when He took on human nature and was born as one of us, Jesus of Nazareth.

Our understanding that this Angel of the LORD is God, Himself, is reinforced by the fact that He accepts the sacrifices offered to the LORD. In chapter six, He will receive Gideon's sacrifice and in chapter thirteen He will ascend in the smoke of Manoah's sacrifice. Manoah's words to his wife on that occasion will be, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God."

When God appears in some way that men and women can see it is called a "theophany." Theophanies include events like the Burning Bush, the Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire. When God appears as a Man in the Old Testament, we call this a "christophany" - a pre-incarnate appearing of Jesus Christ.

## **Questions**

1. What is a theophany?
2. Who is the Angel of the LORD?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks to God for coming to us in the Person of Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise: Psalm 7 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 2:1-5 - Thorns in Israel's Side**

The Angel of the LORD (who is the Son of God, appearing on earth before He was born as a human being) appears at Gilgal, where the Ark of the Covenant is, and goes from there to a place that will be known thereafter as Bochim (meaning "weepers"). We do not know where Bochim is, but that is not as important as what the name of the place represents - the weeping of the Israelites as they mourned over the consequences of their sins.

The Angel of the LORD reminds them that He had brought them out of the land of Egypt to this land that He had promised to give to their fathers. God has kept His covenant with Israel, but, now, Israel is breaking covenant with God. They have not obeyed His commandment never to make covenant with the idolaters of the land, but, rather to break down the altars of their false gods. Instead, the Israelites have tolerated false religion and have made covenants with the peoples of the land.

Because of Israel's faithlessness, God will now leave these nations in the Promised Land. They shall be thorns in Israel's sides - a constant vexing irritation, at best. The false gods of these nations shall be a snare to Israel - a trap which threatens constantly to entangle God's people. Grieved at the consequences their sins have brought upon them, the Israelites weep and they offer sacrifices to the LORD.

Sometimes we must live with the consequences of our sins, even after we have turned from them. Israel's sins will have repercussions for generations to come.

### **Questions**

1. How would these nations be a thorn in Israel's side?
2. Why were their gods a snare to Israel?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God would teach us to repent of our sins before they bring terrible consequences.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise: Psalm 8 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 2:6-10 - Forgetting the LORD**

Judges 2:1-3:6 gives us an overview of the general pattern that the events related in Judges will follow. This overview begins dramatically with an appearance of the Angel of the LORD. The passage that follows (Judges 2:6-10) basically repeats Joshua 24:28-31. In these verses we are taken back to the time just before the death of Joshua. Joshua revealed to Israel which lands God had allotted for each tribe, then he dismissed them. Each tribe then went to take possession of the land the LORD had given it.

The elders of Israel could remember well the wonders God had done in bringing the nation into the Land of Promise: the great victories He had given them over the Amorites and King Og of Bashan on the east side of the Jordan, while Moses was still alive; the miraculous destruction of the walls of Jericho; His judgment on the people in the matter of Achan; the many victories God had given them under Joshua's leadership. So, after Joshua died and was buried at Timnath-heres, as long as these elders lived, Israel served the LORD.

However, when this older generation was passing away, a younger generation arose who could not remember the wonders God had done for them. They quickly forsook the God of their fathers. Verse 10 not only tells us they did not remember the work God had done for Israel, but that they "did not know the LORD" - they did not have saving faith.

We must not take for granted that children raised by godly parents will remain faithful to God. Rather, as we train up a new generation in the way it should go, we must never forget to pray that God would change their hearts and grant them saving faith, and that they might know the LORD.

### **Questions**

1. What does it mean that this generation "did not know the LORD"?
2. Are children saved because they have believing parents?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that covenant children will come to saving faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise: Psalm 9 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 2:11-15 - God's Disciplining Hand

When a generation arose who did not remember the mighty deeds God had done on behalf of Israel and who did not know the LORD, they did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. What did they do that was so evil? They "served the Baals." Verse 12 tells us they abandoned God. In verse 13 we find that they are worshipping the Baals and Ashtaroth. Baal was a god of storms, rain, and fertility worshipped by the Canaanites and other surrounding nations. Ashtareth (plural Ashtaroth) was a fertility goddess worshipped widely in the ancient Near East. Many cities had a different version of this god and goddess, with their own tales and beliefs concerning them. Thus, there really were many Baals (or Baalim) and Ashtaroth worshipped by the peoples of the land. Israel apparently worshipped them all.

The Angel of the LORD had warned that the gods of the nations of the land would be a snare to Israel. Now we see that snare has entangled a new generation of Israelites. As a consequence, the LORD caused Israel to be plundered by invaders and gave them into the hand of their enemies. However, as we will see, this was not because God had abandoned Israel. Rather, He was simply dealing out the discipline He had promised in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Though Israel was faithless, God remained faithful. His disciplining hand against them caused them to cry out to Him, and He turned and rescued them.

Sometimes we find God's disciplining hand upon us. Our sins often have dire consequences in this life. Adversities in our lives come for many reasons, but one possible reason is to awaken us to our need to repent. When we receive God's discipline, may we cry out to Him and return to Him.

## Questions

1. Why did God allow Israel's enemies to have victory over them?
2. What should we do when God disciplines us?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would repent when God disciplines us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise:** Psalm 10 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 2:14-23 - The Pattern Is Set

Here we find the general pattern which will characterize most of the Book of Judges. A generation has forgotten the LORD. He causes them to be plundered and conquered by their enemies. If they try to defend themselves, they are defeated. Then He is moved to pity for Israel as they groan (and cry out to Him for deliverance, as in Judges 3:9), and He raises up deliverers, known as judges, for them, who defeat their enemies. As long as the judge is alive, the people are faithful to the LORD. They enjoy peace and prosperity. When the judge dies, the people soon forget the LORD and become worse than the previous generations. Then the cycle begins again.

The American Puritan, Cotton Mather (1663-1728), repeated an old saying, applying it to his own generation, "Religion brought forth prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother." Mather lamented a situation that is sadly all too common: A generation is faithful to the LORD; that generation reaps the benefits of a good relationship with God (which may include material prosperity); succeeding generations enjoy the benefits, but forget the LORD who gave them, vainly thinking it was their own strength, intelligence, and ingenuity that provided these blessings; they turn to false religion and worldliness; the LORD withdraws the benefits.

Sadly, it seems that many "Christian" nations, today, are at the darkest and lowest point of this cycle. Though we may find it difficult to bear, if it takes God's disciplining hand on our own nations to get them to turn to Him, let us welcome such discipline.

### Questions

1. Why did God allow Israel's enemies to have victory over them?
2. Why did He send judges to Israel?
3. Why should we welcome God's discipline?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will bring formerly Christian nations back to Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise: Psalm 11 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 2:16-23 - Walk in the Way of the LORD**

Yesterday we considered the fact that many historically Christian nations have forsaken the LORD and have attributed their prosperity and many successes to their own strength, intelligence, cultural superiority, and so on. But God's nation is not Scotland, Ireland, Canada, the United States, or Australia. Surely these all rightfully belong to Jesus Christ, who is King of all the nations on behalf of His Church, but the nation of the LORD is the Church of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit makes this clear to us in such Scriptures as Galatians 2:29, Ephesians 2:19-22, and I Peter 2:9.

Tragically, the Church has often fallen into the same pattern we observe in ancient Israel in the time of the Judges and in the nations of our time. Congregations and entire denominations who were once zealous to obey the LORD and to proclaim His Gospel have forgotten and forsaken Him. Time and again in the history of the Church we find professing Christians giving themselves over to idolatry and false doctrine. Generations enjoying the benefits of their faithful forefathers, turn from the LORD and embrace the worldly and pagan ways of the cultures around them - from the worship of saints and idols in the Middle Ages to the attempt to redefine marriage in our time.

In today's reading, we find that God left pagan nations to live in the land alongside Israel "in order to test Israel by them." God used these nations, who were a thorn in Israel's side, to prove "whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not." Too often, Christians have not taken care to walk in the way of the LORD. Let us not commit that sin.

### **Questions**

1. Who is God's chosen nation today?
2. What does it mean to "walk in the way of the LORD"?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

### **Memory Verse**

And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. Judges 2:7

**Praise: Psalm 12 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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