

Bochim
Judges 2
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the events following Joshua's death.

Intro: 1. Faithful leadership, does not guarantee faithful followers.
2.

I. A Visit from the Angel of the Lord (Judges 2)

A. A Reminder

1 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and 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 tear down their altars. (Judges 2:1-2a)

1. A reminder of bringing them out of Egypt
2. A reminder of God's promise to never break the covenant (this was conditional upon their obedience)
3. A reminder of their obligations

B. A Threat

But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? 3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" (Judges 2:2b-3)

1. 1st threat – to not drive the Canaanites out before Israel.
2. 2nd threat – the nations would be like thorns in their side, they would be oppressed by them.
3. 3rd The gods of the Canaanites would be snares to them.

II. The People's reaction

A. The Initial Reaction

4 So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the Lord. (Judges 2:4-5)

1. The people respond by crying out and weeping.
2. The people do sacrifice to the Lord here, but it seems any renewal of dedication to God is short lived.

3. Following the death of Joshua the people again are corrupt before God

7 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 Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.
(Judges 2:7-9)

B. Their heart was corrupt

1. Those who came after Joshua's time were corrupt.

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. (Judges 2:10)

a. One wonders what those who lived during Joshua's time taught about faithfulness!?

2. Their evil

11 Then 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 followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. (Judges 2:11-13)

3. God's reaction

14 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for calamity, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed. 16 Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord; they did not do so. 18 And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of 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 them and harassed them. 19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. 20 Then the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, 22 so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." 23 Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua. (Judges 2:14-23)

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Remember God's Word & His Warnings

1. His promise to the faithful

1 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and 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 tear down their altars. (Judges 2:1-2a)

2. His threat of punishment to the wicked

But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? 3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" (Judges 2:2b-3)

B. Learn from those of the past

1. A empty hearted cry

So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. (Judges 2:4)

2. A life dedicated to wickedness

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 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 followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. (Judges 2:10-13)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Faithfulness to God is not optional.
 2. There is no free pass, the wicked are punished the righteous are rewarded.
 3. The people were warned but those who came after them departed from God and paid the price.
 4. The departed from God repeatedly and they were punished repeatedly for doing so.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9