

II. Chaos in Israel

Quote: "They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them."

Psalms 106:34-36

Make a Bible insert with the following:

Judges: Failure Through Compromise

Showing the Weakness and inability of human nature to Rise to Divine Ideals

JUDGES: Hebrew "Shophetim" - from "shaphat" - to judge, discern, regulate, direct. Here used as the head of the state. They were neither hereditary governors, nor chosen by the people. They were vice-regents of Yahweh - His deputies. Cp **Deut 17:9**.

A STORY OF FAILURE THROUGH COMPROMISE: It is not mere history based upon chronological sequence, but a record of events of spiritual significance showing how Israel failed through compromise, underlining the exhortation of **1 Corinthians 10:12**.

There was no visible leadership. Thus on four occasions we are told that, "In those days there was no king in Israel", and we twice read "but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (**Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25**).

COLOURING EXERCISE - Colour these 4 passages in Red: Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25.
The people did not see Yahweh as their king (cp **1 Sam 8:6-7**), and therefore did not hearken to his direction. It was left therefore for every man to direct his own way. This led to inconsistency, chaos, and betrayal within the nation, because Yahweh was not their guide.

AUTHOR: Probably Samuel. Written after the establishment of Kings (**Ch 17:6; 18:1; 19:1**), but before the accession of David (**Ch 1:21**).

THE CAUSE OF FAILURE - Compromise with explicit instructions of Yahweh (**Ch 1:28...**) and imitation of Canaanitish practices to the glorification of the flesh (**Ch 1:6**). **Chapter 1** lists centres of Canaanitish influence - many of which were sites of resounding victories by Joshua. He, like the Lord Jesus (**Hebrews 2:14**) made individual victory possible, but so often the individual failed.

The book of Judges demonstrates that though the truth is Divine, the professors of it are all too human. We can know about God and His ways and purpose; converse upon His truths, and yet fail to apply the principles expressed therein.

It is our wisdom to faithfully study even these sections of scripture (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 15:4**).

ISRAEL'S DISGRACE: **Psalms 106:34-38** - "They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: (**Jud 1**) But were mingled among the heathen (**Jud 1:21,29,30,32,33; 3:5-6**), and learned their works (as they were warned **Exod 34:11-17; Num 33:52-55; Deut 6:14; 7:2-4; Josh 23:6-13**). And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them (eg **Jud 2:11-13,19; 3:6-7; 10:6,10,13**). Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of

their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood."

THE LESSON OF JUDGES: **SIN** (Jud 3:7,12a; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1) will bring **SUFFERING** (Jud 3:8,12b-14; 4:2,3b; 6:1-6a; 10:7-9; 13:1), but **SEEKING GOD** (Jud 3:9a, 15a; 4:3a; 6:6b; 10:10,15-16) will bring **SALVATION** (Jud 3:9b-11,15b; 4:4-9,15,23; 6:14; 11:29,32; 13:5).

This cycle continued throughout the times of the Judges and highlights the goodness and severity of God (**Romans 11:22**).

COLOURING EXERCISE

Colour the key verses of the six episodes of Judges in the following way (use a fairly thick coloured line down the centre margin of the verse in your Bible):

WARNING - be sure to colour in the appropriate words only because some change in the middle of the verse. An 'a' - indicates the first part of the verse, while 'b' indicates the second part)

SIN (Red line) - Judges 3:7,12a; 4:1; 6:1a; 10:6; 13:1a.

SUFFERING (Black line) - Judges 3:8,12b-14; 4:2,3b; 6:1b-6a; 10:7-9; 13:1b.

SEEKING GOD (Blue line) - Judges 3:9a, 15a; 4:3a; 6:6b; 10:10,15-16.

SALVATION (Green line) - Judges 3:9b-11,15b; 4:4-9,15,23; 6:14; 11:29,32; 13:5.

THE TYPE: Just as Joshua set up elders who wisely guided the people after his death (**Josh 24:31**), so The Lord Jesus Christ appointed apostles and elders to follow him (**Eph 4:11-12**). However since their day the history of the truth has mirrored the days of the Judges. There is no visible king, and every man does that which is right in his own eyes. The truth has been revived at various times, only to be submerged again by failure and compromise. It is a time when a few faithfully put their trust in Yahweh to provide deliverance.

COLOURING EXERCISE

In Judges 1, colour (using a red pencil) where Israel failed to obey Yahweh:

V6 - "cut off his thumbs and his great toes" - instead of destroying him, they copied what the nations did.

V7 - "and they brought him to Jerusalem".

V19 - "could not drive out"

V21 - "did not drive out", "the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin".

V25 - "but they let go the man and his family"

V27 - "neither did Manasseh drive out", "the Canaanites would dwell in that land".

V28 - "they put the Canaanites to tribute and did not utterly drive them out".

V29 - "Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites", "the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them".

V30 - "Neither did Zebulun drive out", "the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries".

V31 - "Neither did Asher drive out".

V32 - "But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites", "they did not drive them out".

V33 - "Neither did Naphtali drive out", "but he dwelt among the Canaanites", "became tributaries unto them".

V34 - "the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain".

V35 - "they became tributaries".