

Judges Chapter 2

V: 1-3 An angel of the Lord – V: 4 “the” Angel of the Lord.

- Came up from Gilgal, the place of blessing and victory to Bochim, the place of weeping and mourning.
- Speaking with personal pronouns in the 1st person: “I said”, “I swore”, “My voice”, “My covenant”.
- This appears to be a “Christophony” or “Theophony”, meaning a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus.
- This is both a rebuke and a reminder of the previous commandments:
 1. I brought you up out of Egypt; I brought you into this land.
 2. You were not to make any covenants with them, no agreements.
 3. You were to break down their altars, destroying their places of worship.
 4. You have been disobedient.

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 “¹⁶But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: ¹⁷But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: ¹⁸That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.” (Warning / Corrupting influence)

- The consequence: Pronouncing judgment.
 1. God would not drive out their enemies from that point.
 2. They shall be constant irritants and snares to you.
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Deuteronomy 20:16-18 represents a warning to the children of Israel that they set aside.

- The Jews become so accustomed to the sinful ways of their pagan neighbors that over time those ways don’t seem sinful any more, they were de-sensitized.
- Then the Jews became interested in how their neighbors worshiped, until finally Israel started to live like their enemies and imitate their ways.

For believers today, the first step away from the Lord is friendship with the world.

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- The next step, the result of this progression is to become defiled:

Joshua 6:18 “And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.”

2 Corinthians 6:17 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

- Otherwise the next step is to love the world: and we’re warned against that.

1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

- Gradually, the result of loving the world is becoming conformed to the world, and we’re warned against that too.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- Then finally if we continue contrary to God’s will we’ll end up condemned with the world:

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 ³¹“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

V: 4-5 Upon hearing this the children of Israel wept, they made sacrifices – but did nothing to correct themselves, there is no indication of repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- Sadly, this is the sorrow of the world.
- “Bochim”, the place of weeping.
- Sin always leads to weeping and mourning.

Later in their history:

Joel 2:13 “And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of evil.”

- God isn’t so much interested in the outward expression – which is often superficial; He is much more interested in the inward change.

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

V: 6-10 As long as Joshua and his contemporaries were around, those who had seen all the great works of the Lord – the people followed the Lord, but as soon as they were gone, the people went astray.

- The new generation rose up that didn't know the Lord, nor the works that He had done.
- Not that they didn't know about the Lord, they all knew about the Lord; but they didn't know Him.
- Yada, yada, yada... but they didn't! - We need to not make that same mistake!

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

Gnosko: to know personally, experientially, intimately.

VS: “**Eidos**” – to know by revelation, in theory, by reading a book.

- This is directly attributable to the lack of instruction and proper parenting on a national scale.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “⁶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- They'd had the different monuments to remind them that would cause their children to ask what that pile of stones was all about – an opportunity to rehearse all the mighty works of God – but somehow they neglected to do so.
- This is a sad indicator to the future. God works in a generation and rarely does revival reach into the second generation – for the same reasons; parents not passing on that Spiritual legacy, extolling the wonderful works of God.

V: 11-13 They did evil by serving other Gods and they did so in the sight of the Lord.

1. God is omniscient – all knowing.
2. God is omnipresent – everywhere at one time.
3. God see's all things – there is no way to do anything without His awareness.

Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eye of Him with whom we have to do.”

- They entered into the idolatry and pagan worship of the people around them – the result of disobedience.

V: 13 **Baal**: the rain god, the god of weather, the god of intellect. Because the weather was a mystery to them, Baal became their explanation for everything that they didn't understand.

- Later in 1 Kings 18 we have the show down between Elijah and the prophets of Baal; the issue at hand was rain or the lack thereof.
- **Ashtaroth**: Also known as the Babylonian goddess **Ishtar**; in Greece she was **Artemis** or **Dianna**, in pagan Rome her name was "**Easter**" the goddess of fertility, whose signs or symbols were the rabbit and the egg.
- Ashtaroth is worshipped to this day through every Playboy magazine and Victoria's Secret catalogue, worshipped at every supermarket checkout stand, on the internet, in most every movie, and in every secular song or ballad.
- Every college campus pays homage to Baal; the god of intellect is worshipped by every man who flaunts their intellect and thinks themselves too wise, too sophisticated to bend their knee to the true and living God.
- It may start out as worship; but it ends up as slavery to sin.

2 Peter 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

V: 14-15 The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, they could no longer stand before their enemies – He allowed their enemies to have victory over them. Just as God had said.

- This is the opposite of the blessing in **Psalm 1:3**

"... his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

- If God is against us, who can be for us?

V: 16-19 We have sort of a pro-log to the book, describing the cycle of disobedience:

1. They would worship the false gods.
2. They would be delivered into the hands of their enemies, into bondage.
3. They would eventually cry out to God.
4. God raising up a deliverer, a judge who would inspire them to turn back to the Lord, and while that judge lived, they would be obedient to the Lord.
5. As soon as that particular judge died they would turn back to their false gods, go back into captivity and repeat the entire cycle again.

6. A rather sad preview of things to come.

V: 16 Nevertheless... in spite of all of that... God raises up a judge, a deliverer.

- Why would God do such a thing?
- Because He loves them, He doesn't want to see them destroyed, he wants them to have a second chance – it is all part of His loving nature.

Psalm 103:8 “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

- The Lord raised up judges: law giver, one who executes judgment, who governs.
- Delivered them, saved them.
- God sent Moses to be a deliverer for Israel.

V: 17 They would not listen to the judges that God raised up.

- This is much like later on when God would send the prophets to the nation to warn them of their evil deeds and the resulting judgment, but they didn't listen to the prophets either.
- “whoring after other gods...” someone, usually referring to a female who commits either adultery or fornication.
- This word is being used to describe Israel, who is betrothed to God the Father, but now she is committing spiritual adultery or fornication by worshipping other gods – she is being unfaithful to her “beloved”.

10 Commandments, the Law: **Exodus 20:2-5**

1st: “²I am the Lord thy God..., ³thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

2nd: “⁴Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...”

- They turned quickly away from the Lord.

V: 18 God raised up judges, and God was with these judges.

- God empowered these ordinary people to do extraordinary things:

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 “²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

- God would use these judges to deliver the people, because he was moved to pity for them because of their groanings, their crying out.

V: 19 The continuation of that cycle: when the judge died they returned... in a bad way as in returning back to their sinful ways.

Proverbs 26:11 “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.”

“... *and corrupted themselves...*”

Corrupted: ^(H7843) shachath, shaw-khath'; to pervert, decay, cause ruin corrupt, destroy, mar, utterly waste.

- Corruption is the process of taking something that is good and through the process of decay and destruction making it worse, spoiling it, ruining it.
- They ceased not from their own doings and from their own stubborn ways.

Judges 21:25 “... *every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*”

V: 20 They provoked the Holy One to anger, fierce anger.

- They “transgressed”, not that they simply fell short (sinned) but they purposefully, intentionally, knowingly turned away from God’s covenant with them.

V: 21 The repercussion: God withdraws His support.

V: 22-23 God would leave or allow these pagan nations to remain that He might use them to test and prove the children of Israel – His instrument now in His hands.

- The Psalmist offers us a commentary of sorts about this period of time:

Psalm 106:40-48 ([Read](#))