**July 24, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**COVENANT AND COMMITTMENT**

**Judges 2:1-23**

***Judges 2:1 "And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you."***

We see, in this chapter, a going back and re-capping of what had happened up until this point. The angel of the LORD had spoken to Joshua at Gilgal, soon after they had entered the land. This is undoubtedly speaking of that time. The penman is stating the fact, again, that it was actually the LORD who had brought them out of Egypt to the promised land. God had fulfilled His part of the covenant.

***Judges 2:2 "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"***

God had told them, from the very beginning, to make no league with these people. The Israelites were to destroy everything in this land that was pertaining to false gods. The sad thing is, that they have disobeyed God in this. They have let the people live in harmony with them, and they have even allowed the heathen false gods to remain.

***Judges 2:3 "Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be [as thorns] in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you."***

The name "Bochim" in verse 1, means weeping. We see, now, why they are weeping. These people would remain as a thorn in their sides. The evil, false gods would not have been a snare, if they had destroyed them, as God had commanded them to do. God has graciously given them this promised land, only if they obey Him.

***Judges 2:4 "And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept."***

This message is the Word of God. We have it in written form, and we do not listen to the Words any better than these Israelites did. They weep, because God is displeased with them, but they do nothing to try to make it right. They should repent and destroy these false gods. Christians today are too tolerant with things we know for sure are against the will of God. We might weep that God is displeased with us, but we must repent and change our way of life to please God.

***Judges 2:5 "And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD."***

They did weep for a moment, and they did sacrifice unto the LORD. The tabernacle was at Shiloh, so perhaps, that is where they sacrificed. It could have been in the same vicinity.

***Judges 2:6 "And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land."***

It was Joshua who had actually separated the land by lot to each tribe. After it was divided, each family had to go in and take their land. It would have been no trouble at all, if they had stayed loyal to God. God fought for them, and they won.

***Judges 2:7 "And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel."***

The people were loyal to God, as long as Joshua was alive to guide them. Those who remembered the great miracles, like the crossing of the Jordan River on dry land, and the sun standing still for the battle, would all be loyal, and help the others stay loyal. With their guidance, Israel served the LORD.

***Judges 2:8 "And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, [being] an hundred and ten years old."***

Joshua went the way of all men. He died at the old age of 110.

***Judges 2:9 "And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash."***

Timnath-heres and Timnath-serah were the same place. He was of the tribe of Ephraim, and was buried in that tribe's territory. "Timnath-heres" means portion of the sun. Some believe this place to be where the sun stood still in the battle, when Joshua prayed to God.

***Judges 2:10 "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."***

This is saying that, the generation that came after Joshua, and the elders, did not know the LORD. Perhaps, their parents had not been diligent in training them, or perhaps, they did not believe their parents. They were not eyewitness to the wonders the LORD had done and did not believe. It is important for each generation to make the next fully aware of the LORD. Christians are told every time they take communion, to do it in remembrance of Jesus. Some children grow up taking communion, and never know exactly why they are taking it. People should be taught about communion at a very early age.

***Judges 2:11 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:"***

Men have a part of them that demands to worship something, or someone, that is not fallible like themselves. If they do not know of the One True God, they will seek another. That is when they find a false god to worship. It is no different now. Children get into Satan worship looking for God. The church must wake up, and minister to our youth. They must be taught of the Lord Jesus Christ, so they will not look elsewhere.

***Judges 2:12 "And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that [were] round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger."***

This is just the same as saying, they conformed to the world around them. Everyone else was doing it, so they did, too. They wanted to be like everyone else. God had separated them out as an holy people. They have gone back with the world to unholy living. They have broken the first commandment. Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

***Judges 2:13 "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth."***

Ashteroth, was the false goddess of the Zidonians. Baal, a false god, was worshipped many times in conjunction with Ashteroth. These Canaanites worshipped Baal above all other false male gods. Ashteroth was the number one female false god. She was associated with the star, Venus.

***Judges 2:14 "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies."***

In the physical sense, these Canaanites were more powerful than Israel. They had many chariots and weapons of war, which the Israelites did not have. When they sinned, and God did not help them, they were at the mercy of the Canaanites. The Israelites could not win without the LORD.

***Judges 2:15 "Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed."***

The anger of the LORD brings His wrath. He will not help them, because they have been unfaithful to Him. In fact, He will fight against them. The covenant God had made with them was conditional on them keeping His commandments.

***Judges 2:16 "Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them."***

This is what the book of Judges is about. God raised them up, one at a time to judge the people. God would bless the people, while the judges were judging. The judges kept them informed more clearly of their errors. God wants to bless them. He is forgiving. His compassion for them is shown in the numerous times He forgives them.

***Judges 2:17 "And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; [but] they did not so."***

It appears, from this, that even the judges had very little impact upon them. They did not stop worshipping these false gods, even when the judges were reminding them how sinful that was. To be blessed, they must keep God's commandments.

***Judges 2:18 "And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them."***

God loved them. He did not want their enemies ruling over them. Over and over, God tried to cause them to realize what they were doing and repent of their unfaithfulness. They did not deserve it, but God blessed them during the days of the judges. It seemed the more He blessed them, the more they sinned. The corrections one judge would make did not seem to last, and another would come and take his place.

***Judges 2:19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, [that] they returned, and corrupted [themselves] more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.***

It appears, from this, that they would slow their false worship down, while the judge was actively judging them. As soon as he died, they were back to worshipping false gods again. This stubbornness is like rebellion. Rebellion is compared to witchcraft. They did whatever their fleshly desires were.

***Judges 2:20 "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;"***

***Judges 2:21 "I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:"***

God hates their sins. He is jealous with a Godly jealousy. God had been with them, driving their enemies out before them, but they have broken God's commandments. They have taken up the way of the flesh, instead of the spirit. They have broken the ten commandments. God will not help them, until they repent and turn back to Him.

***Judges 2:22 "That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep [it], or not."***

***Judges 2:23 "Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua."***

If they had kept the commandments of God, He would have driven all of their enemies out for them. Their unfaithfulness to Him has caused Him to draw back from them. The Lord must know for sure, if they are following Him, because they love Him and believe in Him.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who had the angel of the LORD spoken to at Gilgal?
2. God had fulfilled His part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who had they been warned not to make league with?
4. What were they to do with the inhabitants' altars?
5. What were they going to be like to the Israelites, because of their sins?
6. Their gods will be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to you.
7. What does "Bochim" mean?
8. Who did the angel of the LORD speak this to?
9. What same mistake do we, Christians, make?
10. What should they do, to put them in right standing with God?
11. What did they do, besides weep at Bochim?
12. Where was the tabernacle at the time this happened?
13. Who did the physical dividing of the land?
14. What did each family have to do, after they received their allotment?
15. How long did the people serve the LORD?
16. How old was Joshua, when he died?
17. Where was he buried?
18. "Timnath-heres" means what?
19. What did the next generation after Joshua do?
20. What are Christians to do, when they take communion?
21. Verse 11 says, they served \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
22. What fact must the church wake up to?
23. What effect did their worship of false gods have on God?
24. What were two of the false gods named, that they worshipped?
25. What did God do to Israel in His anger?
26. Who did the LORD raise up, that delivered them from their spoilers?
27. Why did God help them through the judges?
28. What is their stubbornness like?
29. God is jealous with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ jealousy.
30. What did God do to Israel for their unfaithfulness?