

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 1: Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy

Scriptures: Judges 1:1 to 3:6

Central text: Judges 2:11-16

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, 12 and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. 14 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. 16 Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- In violation of God's command, Israel failed to destroy all the idolatrous inhabitants of the land, but made covenants with them (Judges 1:27-36).
- God decreed that He therefore would not drive out these people but would leave them to be "thorns" in the side of Israel (Judges 2:1-5).
- These nations would prove Israel, whether they would remain faithful to God or not (Judges 2:20 - 3:4).
- Joshua's generation, which knew the Lord, died (2:6-10). Later generations intermarried with the idolatrous Gentiles in the land and served their gods (Judges 3:5-6).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice (Gen. 15:16), Holiness, Veracity
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 God's promise of Life if you walk by his commandments and a curse if you refuse.

Notes: For a period of around 350 years Israel went through a repeated cycle: (1) SIN - they sinned against God; (2) SERVITUDE - God allowed oppressors to overcome them; (3) SORROW - they repented of their rebellion; (4) SALVATION - God sent a judge to deliver them (Judges 2:11-19). The book of Judges records twelve (thirteen if Abimelech is counted) such judges. Eli and Samuel, recorded in 1 Samuel, complete the list of judges (14 or 15).