

The Book of Judges: Chapters 1 & 2

Sunday, October 6 – Wednesday, October 9

Chapter 1: Sunday, October 6

(1 – 7) What question did the Israelites ask to God (as recorded in verse 1), and how did God answer? What was the purpose of the alliance established between the tribes of Judah and Simeon, and what was the outcome?

(8 – 11) Describe the additional conquests of the tribe of Judah. What is the significance of the reference to the tribe of Judah taking Jerusalem during this time period? (*Judges 1: 21; 2 Samuel 5: 6 – 7*)

(12 – 15) What was Caleb's connection to the city of Hebron and the surrounding area? What offer did Caleb make, and who received Caleb's promised reward? What request did Caleb's daughter make, and how did Caleb respond? (*Numbers 14: 24; Joshua 15: 13 – 19; Judges 3: 9*)

(16 – 21) Describe the further conquests of the tribe of Judah. Why was Judah successful in battle, but struggled to conquer certain enemies? Describe the reference to the tribe of Benjamin's failure to take Jerusalem (given the earlier statement in verse 8 that the city had been taken by the tribe of Judah). (*Joshua 15: 63*)

(22 – 26) What tribes are represented by the title "house of Joseph"? Describe their action against the city of Bethel (or Luz). Why were they successful in taking the city? Consider how this event resembles the situation regarding Rahab's assistance to the Israelites in the taking of Jericho (from Joshua 6).

(27 – 33) In general terms, what is the main point derived from the accounts given in this passage regarding the actions (or lack thereof) of many of the tribes of Israel toward their enemies?

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(34 – 36) Describe the situation regarding the tribe of Dan. Why would the Amorites have been able to force the tribe of Dan into the mountains? With the assistance of the house of Joseph, what did the tribe of Dan do to the Amorites (compared to what they should have done)?

Chapter 2: Wednesday, October 9

(1 – 6) What charge did the Angel of the Lord bring against the people of Israel, and what would be the consequence of their actions? How did the people respond? What can we learn from the Angel of the Lord's comments regarding the covenant relationship that God seeks to have with His people?
(*Numbers 33: 55 – 56*)

(7 – 10) In this reflection on the life and service of Joshua, how is he described? What influence did Joshua's leadership and example have on the people of Israel? When that generation had passed away, what became of the next generation (how are they described)? (*Deuteronomy 34: 5*)

(11 – 15) Describe the actions of the Israelites. What was the result of their failure to destroy their enemies as God had commanded? How did God respond to the people's disobedience and lack of faith? What can we learn about the relationship that God desires to have with His people?
(*Exodus 20: 3 – 6; Romans 1: 22 – 25*)

(16 – 19) Describe the purpose and role of the judges. Why did God appoint judges, and how did the people respond to their leadership? What pattern emerged that would remain consistent throughout the period of the judges?

(20 – 23) What was God's response to the people's disobedience? How would God use the pagan people that lived among and around the Israelites to accomplish His purposes? What do we learn about God's expectations of His people within a covenant relationship? (*Galatians 6: 7 – 8*)