

Judges 2 Israel Rebuked

Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, 2 and as for you, you shall not make a covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; what is this thing that you have done?

3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out from you; but they will become like thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a snare to you.'" 4 Now when the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people raised their voices and wept. 5 So they named that place Bochim; and there they sacrificed to the LORD.

Joshua Dies

6 When Joshua had dismissed the people, the sons of Israel went, each one to his inheritance, to take possession of the land. 7 The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD which He had done for Israel. 8 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.

9 And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 10 All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and another generation rose up after them who did not know the LORD, nor even the work which He had done for Israel.

Israel Serves the Baals

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, 12 and they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they followed other gods from the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them; so they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.

14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He handed them over to plunderers, and they plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand against their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and just as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.

16 Then the LORD raised up judges who saved them from the hands of those who plundered them.

17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they committed infidelity with other gods and bowed down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their

fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do the same as their fathers. 18 And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who tormented and oppressed them.

19 But it came about, when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their obstinate ways. 20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has violated My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to My voice, 21 I in turn will no longer drive out from them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the LORD allowed those nations to remain, not driving them out quickly; and He did not hand them over to Joshua.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's helpful insights and questions

1. Now – why do we use this word in a sentence?
2. It is the angel of the Lord who had been active for Israel in bringing about God's will and purposes.
3. How much are angels playing a part in the lives of Christians today?
4. A covenant made with God is an agreement that is sealed with the promise of the honour of His name.
5. God, through the angel, instructs the people not to make an agreement or treaty with the surrounding nations.
6. He has no intention of them being seen as part of the nations around them.
7. Israel's disobedience brings on them the curse that was promised to Moses.
8. Having let God down they now reap what they sow! God refuses to assist them in destroying the surrounding nations.
9. The relationship with God and His people is somewhat unpleasant, not good!
10. The news from the angel brought the people to tears, their attempts to restore

relationship with God is unsuccessful.

11. Despite the fact that God had said He would not be helping them, they still went ahead to possess their inheritance.

12. The people had been faithful up until the time of Joshua's death and the death of Israel's leaders.

13. Would you like to be alive at one hundred and ten years old?

14. Having gone astray they soon became entangled with the practices and lifestyle of the surrounding nations.

15. They completely turn their back on God and are seduced by demons.

16. The anger of the Lord was provoked creating hostility in the relationship.

17. His hand of protection was lifted off of them.

18. Their enemies ruled over them.

19. God's judgements on His people were severe.

20. Despite all of this, God's mercy and compassion motivated Him to provide Judges, they were liked saviours who would save for a season, they would rescue Israel but then the people would stray from God.

21. What are the dangers of disregarding the ways of our forefathers?

22. What does it mean to take pity because of their groanings?

23. What is it to be oppressed?

24. Each generation did a greater evil than their forefathers, they practiced evil ways and they were stubborn.

25. What is it for God to burn with anger against Israel?

26. God abandoned the covenant promise and refused to clear out the surrounding nations.

27. God was using the surrounding nations to test Israel's faithfulness to see if He could trust them.