



**“HALF-HEARTED OBEDIANCE”**

**WEEK 1 – JUDGES 1-2:10**

**JANUARY 6, 2019**

## Why study the book of Judges?

### ➤ Because it is SCRIPTURE.

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)*

### ➤ Because it is RELEVANT.

*“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”  
Judges 21:25 (NKJV)*

### ➤ Because it is ABOUT JESUS.

“The Bible (unlike the books on which other religions are based) is not about following moral examples. It is about a God of mercy and longsuffering, who continually works in and through us despite our constant resistance to his purposes. Ultimately, there is only one hero in this book, and he’s divine.” Timothy Keller

*“Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now. ‘The Lord has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. One of you routs a thousand, because the Lord your God fights for you, just as he promised. So be very careful to love the Lord your God. ‘But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, then you may be sure that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the Lord your God has given you.’”  
Joshua 23:6-13 (NIV)*

*“Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the Lord, saying, ‘Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?’ And the Lord said, ‘Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand.’ So Judah said to Simeon his brother, ‘Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory.’ And Simeon went with him. Then Judah went up, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek. And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. And Adoni-Bezek said, ‘Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.’ Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.” Judges 1:1-7 (NKJV)*

## 📖 CHAPTER 1: THE EXPOSURE OF A SERIAL PROBLEM: Full COMMITMENT is missing.

### ❖ Character Traits of Half-Hearted Devotion & Obedience:

#### → Infusing Worldly WISDOM.

*"Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. And Adoni-Bezek said, 'Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.' Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died."*

Judges 1:6-7 (NKJV)

#### → Fearing Human STRENGTH.

*"So the Lord was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron."* Judges 1:19 (NKJV)

#### → Disregarding God's COMMANDS.

*"But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites..."* V21a

*"However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages..."* V27a

*"And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out."* V28

*"Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites..."* V29

*"Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron..."* V30

*"Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon..."* V31

*"Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath..."* V33

## 📖 CHAPTER 2: THE ECHO OF A SACRED PROMISE: Forgetful COMPROMISE is costly.

*"Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: 'I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, "I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars." But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorn in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept...When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel."* Judges 2:1-4, 10 (NKJV)

### ❖ Israel Had Forgotten...

#### → God's Miraculous SALVATION.

*"I led you up from Egypt..."* V2:1a (NKJV)

*"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

→ God's Proven FAITHFULNESS.

*"I will NEVER BREAK My covenant with you." V2:1b (NKJV)*

*"If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV)*

→ God's Future GENERATIONS.

*"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them WHO DID NOT KNOW THE LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel." V2:10 (NKJV)*

 Today's Big Take Away's:

- ✓ God wants & deserves LORDSHIP over every part of our LIVES.
- ✓ Tough CIRCUMSTANCES & difficult PEOPLE are not acceptable excuses for disobedience.
- ✓ Mercy & grace are extended to the most UNLIKELY and UNDESERVING of people.