

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 2

The “First Introduction”

Initial Successes & Failures

Judg. 1

Introduction

Judges 1:1 – 2:5 serves as the “first introduction.” It chronicles the initial activity following the death of Joshua. **1:1-21** describes conquests primarily in the south (*success*) while **1:22-36** describes conquests primarily in the north (*failure*).

With their conquering leader now gone, how would Israel carry out their responsibilities? They must graduate from a migrating people to a settled people in their promised home.

- 1) What had Israel been commanded earlier? (**Num. 33:50-56; Josh. 23:1-13**)
[Keep thinking about these passages throughout this lesson.]

- 2) Despite the book’s overall disappointing nature, how does it begin on a positive note? (**1:1; Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21; Judg. 20:28**) Thought question: who would have been involved in this decision, and what would he have employed?

- 3) When considering the battles mentioned in this chapter, what words spoken some 40 years earlier come to mind? (**Num. 13:27-33**)

- 4) Which tribe would lead the nation in completing their subduing of Canaan? (**vv. 1-2**) What provision did Judah seek for assistance? (**vv. 3, 17-18**)

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- 5) What unusual punishment was put on Adoni-bezek? (v. 6) Who approved of such treatment and why? (v. 7)

- 6) What city was captured by Judah? (v. 8) Was it fully secured? (v. 21) Not until when? (1 Chron. 11:4-9)

- 7) What arrangements did Caleb make for subduing Judah's portion? (vv. 12-15)

- 8) Who else was involved in the conquest? (v. 16; Num. 10:29)

- 9) Why did Judah fail to fully obey the Lord's command? (v. 19) What was their problem? (Josh. 17:17-18)

- 10) What promise was kept to Caleb? (v. 20; Josh. 14:6-12) What had set Caleb apart? (Num. 14:24)

- 11) What failures begin to be listed with regularity throughout the remainder of this chapter? (vv. 22-36)