

Judges 2:1—3:4 **First Generation obeyed Yehowah - Nations left to test Israel**

Message of Angel of Yehowah

¹ 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. ² 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? ³ Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' " ⁴ 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. ⁵ Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. ⁶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

First Generation served Yehowah

⁷ So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

Death and Burial of Joshua

⁸ Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. ⁹ And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

Next Generation did not know Yehowah and turned away from Him

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; ¹² and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³ They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. ¹⁵ Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

God sent Judges to deliver Israel

¹⁶ Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so. ¹⁸ And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of 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 oppressed them and harassed them. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

God turned away from Israel

20 Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, 22 so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." 23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua. NKJV

Nations left to test Israel

Judges 3:1-4

1 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan 2 (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), 3 namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. 4 And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Message of Angel of Yehowah

- ✧ 1 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. 2 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?"
- ✧ 3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "
- ✧ 4 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. 5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. 6 And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.
 - ✧ Caleb was 40 years of age when Moses sent out the spies to search out the Promised Land from Kadesh Barnea, Israel was punished for their rebellion by spending 40 years in the wilderness, bringing Caleb to age 80, it took 5 years to defeat all their enemies, bringing Caleb to age 85 when he received his inheritance and the land was divided between the tribes of Israel. [Joshua 14:6-12]
 - ✧ Joshua and Caleb were about the same age, and Joshua died at age 110, which indicates that there were about 25 years between the end of the wars and the death of Joshua, during which time the tribes of Israel failed to drive out the remainder of the people of the land as God had commanded. [Joshua 24:29, Judges 2:8]
 - ✧ **Gilgal** was the site of the first encampment of the Children of Israel after they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, located between the Jordan River and Jericho. [Joshua 4:19]
 - ✧ **Bochim** is on the high land west of Gilgal.
 - ✧ **Malak Yehowah** (the Angel of the Lord) spoke in the first person as the One Who led Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land Whom we know to be God the Word, Jesus.
 - ✧ "I will never break My covenant with you."
 - ✧ Yehowah has never broken His Covenant with Israel to this day, the punishment for their disobedience is as much a part of the Covenant as was the blessings for obedience.

- ✧ Part of the Covenant was the responsibility on the part of Israel to destroy all the inhabitants of the Promised Land. "You shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars."
- ✧ In 25 years time, Israel failed to do their part for possession of their inheritance.

God had commanded:

Exodus 34:12-17

12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 **But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images** 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. 17 You shall make no molded gods for yourselves. NKJV

Numbers 33:50-56

50 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, 51 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 then **you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; 53 you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.** 54 And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. 55 **But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.** 56 **Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.**' " NKJV

- ✧ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? [Judges 2:2]
- ✧ Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' [Judges 2:3]
- ✧ 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. Then they called the name of that place **Bochim**; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. [Judges 2:4-5]
- ✧ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land. [Judges 2:6]

First Generation served Yehowah

- ✧ So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. [Judges 2:7]
- ✧ Truth is easily forgotten in favor to the desires of the people. Faithfulness toward the Lord can disappear in only one generation.

- ✧ The honor shown toward God in the USA since the generation of 1940, has been replaced with humanistic concepts in direct disregard for the truth of the Bible, (the Word of God) in just the last 68 years. So the current generation finds no reason to seek the Word of God for guidance in public education or government.
- ✧ The world today is following the sinfulness of the Children of Israel in the generation that followed Joshua. Therefore, the Great Tribulation is rapidly approaching when God will call the world into Judgment.
- ✧ Because we can not see God, we turn to the wisdom of men which we call Psychology and Science which militate against the revelations of God found in the Bible. However we will soon, to our chagrin, find out when it is too late to change, that the Word of God is true and everything God has spoken regarding events future to our day is certain to occur just as God has said.

Death and Burial of Joshua

- ✧ 8 Now **Joshua** the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. And **they buried him** within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. [Judges 2:8]

Next Generation did not know Yehowah and turned away from Him

- ✧ 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 2:10]
- ✧ Then **the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. **They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.** [Judges 2:11-13]
- ✧ And **the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel.** So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. **Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them.** And they were greatly distressed. [Judges 2:14-15]

God sent Judges to deliver Israel

- ✧ Nevertheless, **the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.** [Judges 2:16]
- ✧ Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. **They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.** [Judges 2:17]
- ✧ And when **the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge;** for Yehowah was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. [Judges 2:18]
- ✧ And it came to pass, **when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers,** by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. **They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.** [Judges 2:19]
 - ✧ The wicked bent of humankind has not changed, they still oppose the ways of the Lord with all their might, willfully rebelling in the face of God.
 - ✧ Knowing the things God has revealed, they turn against Him today as then.
 - ✧ Romans is correct in declaring:
 - Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;** **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.** NKJV

God turned away from Israel

☆ Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "**Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.**" Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua. [\[Judges 2:20-23\]](#)

Nations left to test Israel

Judges 3:1-4

☆ **1** Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan **2** (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), **3** namely, **five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites**

who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. ⁴
And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. [\[Judges 3:1-4\]](#)

- ✧ God does test His people today to see if they will search out and obey the things He has commanded.
- ✧ God has not changed, as He tested His people Israel, He also tests the commitment of His people today whether Jew or Gentile.
- ✧ Will we today be able to pass the test?
- ✧ How committed to seeking the will of God for our lives have we become?
- ✧ Are we today able to discern the error of false doctrine of human origin, which militates against the commandment and Will of God revealed in Holy Scripture?
- ✧ God uses ungodly people to test His Saints, will we stand the test?

Romans 14:10-12

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written:

"As I live, says the LORD,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

¹⁰ **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

- ✧ The Wrath of God expressed in the Great Tribulation is rapidly approaching the world today.
- ✧ Will you be found worthy to escape the things that will come to test those who dwell on the earth?

Jesus said:

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." [\[Luke 21:36\]](#)