

## **SECTION FOUR: THE ERA OF THE JUDGES: THE DARK AGES OF THE NATION**

### **Judges 1 - Ruth 4**

Although under Joshua all the great kings of Canaan were subdued, and the land was assigned to the various tribes as their inheritance, there still was a great deal to be done before the land would belong completely to the Israelites. Find in the passages below what was to be done, and what was actually accomplished toward this goal:

#### **A. God's Promises to Israel:**

1. How much of Canaan had God promised to Israel? Genesis 15:18-21, Genesis 17:8  
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2. What had God promised He would do to the inhabitants of the land? Exodus 23:30  
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3. On what condition would God do this? Exodus 23:22a  
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#### **B. God's Command to Israel:**

1. What was Israel's part in bringing to pass God's promises?
  - a. Exodus 23:24b \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Exodus 23:24c \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Exodus 23:32 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Exodus 23:33 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What would happen if they did not do their part? Joshua 23:13
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **C. Israel's Reaction to God's Promises and Commands: Read Judges 1:1 - 2:2**

1. How did the tribe of Judah react to God's command? Judges 1:19  
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2. Find the names of seven other tribes who reacted in the same way: Judges 1:21-34  
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3. How did God sum up the reaction of all the tribes? Judges 2:2b  
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4. What do you think was Israel's reaction to God's promises?  
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#### **D. The Results of Israel's Reaction: Read Judges 2:3-23**

1. What did God say would happen because of Israel's actions? Judges 2:3
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What did the people do after the death of Joshua?
  - a. Judges 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Judges 2:12a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Judges 2:12b \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did God do because of this? Judges 2:14  
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4. When they were distressed and cried to God, what did God do? Judges 2:16  
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5. In spite of God's help, what happened after this? Judges 2:19  
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1. The above cycle was repeated over and over again during the era of the Judges. Read Judges 17:6, 21:25 for a summary of this period.  
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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. What caused this very dark period in Israel's history? What would have happened if Israel had reacted differently to God's promises and commands? See Isaiah 48:18.  
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2. Do I ever react to God's promises and commands as Israel did?  
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