



You have not obeyed

JUDGES 2:1-3

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- ▶ 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.' "

Background – Judges 1

- ▶ God instructed Israel to drive out the inhabitants of the land.
- ▶ Judges 1:27-34 lists the tribes that did NOT drive out the pagan inhabitants.
- ▶ A troubling question – God's 4 responses.

Troubling Question

- ▶ Many see God as cruel, vicious murderer seeking annihilation of tribes and nations of people.
- ▶ 1 – God commanded that they be “driven out” not killed.
- ▶ 2 – This is not a proper view of God.
- ▶ There is a difference in a mad man with a machete who hacks off a mans arm – and a surgeon who amputates an infected arm to save the mans life.
- ▶ God is not a maniac causing havoc. He is a doctor seeking save lives.

4 Responses to their failure to obey

▶ 1 – Covenant is Covenant

- ▶ **Judges 2:1** 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."
- ▶ **God keeps His covenant (promise).**

4 Responses to their failure to obey

▶ 2 – I won't do your work

- ▶ **Judges 2:3a** Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you
- ▶ You made your bed, now lie in it.
- ▶ God is not obligated to get you out of your mess.
- ▶ God told you and you did not listen.

4 Responses to their failure to obey

▶ 3 – These nations will be a snare to you

- ▶ **Judges 2:3** 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.' "
- ▶ For the next 1,500 years they will be your enemies.
- ▶ Their gods will cause you pain and grief.

4 Responses to their failure to obey

▶ 4 – I left them for you to learn

- ▶ **Judges 3:1a** Now these *are* the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them
- ▶ God did not protect them from harm
- ▶ He turned the bad (failure to obey) into something useful (helping Israel learn).

4 Responses to their failure to obey

▶ 4 – I left them for you to learn

- ▶ **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
- ▶ We learn more from our failures than our successes.

Application to this lesson

- ▶ 1 – God will keep His covenant

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- ▶ **1 – God will keep His covenant**
- ▶ **2 – God will NOT do your work for you**

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- ▶ **2 – God will NOT do your work for you**
- ▶ **3 – Our disobedience will bring us pain and harm**
- ▶ **4 – We must learn from our mistakes**

Final Questions

- ▶ **Have you obeyed God?**
- ▶ **Repentance and baptism for forgiveness of sins – Acts 2:38**
- ▶ **Repent and pray for sins after baptism – Acts 8:22**