

2. Background

Israel Occupies the Promise Land

Judges 1:21,27-34 – Did not drive them out

Judges 2:1-5,10-13 – What was the effect of Israel not driving out the other nations?

Judges 2:14-15 – What were the consequences of their actions?

Rise of the Judges (ruled approx. 400 years)

Judges 2:16 – What was the purpose of the judges?

Judges 2:17-20 – Why were they continually needed?

Lev. 26:1-39 – Was Israel warned of what would happen if they turned from God?

Gen. 17:7, Lev. 26:42-45, Deut. 7:9 - Why did he continue to send the judges?

Judges 2:21-3:4 – What decision did God make about the other nations?

What cycle did the nation of Israel fall into? (4 phases)

State of the Nation – Judges 17-21

Judges 17:6 “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17 – Micah (Ephraim) – had graven and molten images (idols) – consecrated one of his sons, that he might become his priest – hired and consecrated a Levite to “be a father and a priest” in his home – perverted the law and God’s will “Now I know that the Lord will prosper me, seeing I have a Levite as priest.”

Judges 18 – Danites threaten Micah (fellow countrymen), stole his graven and molten images, ephod, and household idols. Plundered and burned the city of Laish. Appointed priests not of the tribe of Levi.

Judges 19 – Levite took a concubine. She played the harlot and fled. Levite went after her, got her, and started home. One the way home, not safe to stay outside. Got attacked by “worthless fellows” (Benjamites) who wanted to sodomize him. Got the concubine, raped and abused her. Left her for dead – killed her. Took her home, cut her into 12 pieces limb by limb, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel,

Judges 20 – Israel amassed an army against the tribe of Benjamin. God not consulted on judgement. Civil War. Live lost. Tribe of Benjamin defeated. Degradation.

Judges 21 – Israel swore not to give daughters to the tribe of Benjamin. Without consulting God, besieged Jabesh-gilead, Killed countrymen. Kidnapped 400 virgins and gave them to the tribe of Benjamin. Blackmailed fathers/brothers of Shiloh.

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