

Week #:	167	Series:	God's Judgment	Title:	God's Judgment for Failure (Judges 2:1-23)
Scriptures:	Joshua 2:1-23				
Songs:	Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord – Matt Redman (3:52)				
	Medley: I Sing Praises, I Just Want to Praise You, We Exalt Thee – Reggie Royal & Judah (10:24)				
	PRAYER:	Too Good to Not Believe – Brandon Lake & Cody Carnes (9:59)			

## Judges Chapter 2: God's Judgment for Failure

Judges 2 is where we see for the first time the Cycle of Apostasy that Israel falls into throughout this book. In the first chapter we saw that they failed to do what God commanded, which was to conquer the land and drive out the people. They did NOT drive out the people. They thought they were going to be fine if the people stayed. In the end though, God had a purpose for this requirement – He knew that these people and their culture of false gods would invade the hearts and minds of Israel. And in time it did.

The people fall into worship of false gods, and God has to bring judgment on them because of their decisions.

### Judges 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Now the angel of Adonai came up from Gilgal to Bokhim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt, led you to the land I swore to your fathers and said, 'I will never break my covenant with you; <sup>2</sup> you, for your part, are not to make any covenant with the inhabitants of this land but must tear down their altars.' However, you have paid no attention to what I said. What is this you have done? <sup>3</sup> This is why I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will be on your flanks, and their gods will become a snare for you.'" <sup>4</sup> When the angel of Adonai spoke these words to all the people of Isra'el, they began crying and wailing at the top of their voices. <sup>5</sup> So they called the name of that place Bokhim [crying] and sacrificed there to Adonai.

Bokhim is probably not a specific town/place. It is a place where this situation took place, and so they started calling it Bokhim, which means **crying**. They were crying because God was going to allow them to be oppressed.

God is very clear here with what all He has brought them through. He took them from slavery in Egypt and sent them to a land where they could be free, but they put themselves back into slavery to the people they did not drive out of the land.

Here we also see the promise of God that **he will never break his covenant with them**. But they will break this covenant. God is not who walked away here, it is the people of Israel that did that, and their downfall is because of their own decisions and actions.

### Judges 2:6-9

<sup>6</sup> When Y'hoshua had sent the people away, the people of Isra'el had gone each one to his assigned property in order to take possession of the land. <sup>7</sup> The people served Adonai throughout Y'hoshua's life and throughout the lives of all the older men who outlived Y'hoshua and who had seen all the great work of Adonai which he had done for Isra'el. <sup>8</sup> When Y'hoshua the son of Nun, the servant of Adonai, died, he was 110 years

old; <sup>9</sup> and they buried him near the boundary of his property in Timnat-Heres, in the hills of Efrayim, north of Mount Ga'ash.

Here we get a little bit of history. They took possession of the land under Joshua. The land was divided amongst the tribes. Then it says that the people served Adonai throughout the life of Joshua. And then, when he was 110 years old, Joshua died. The people's leader died. They, once again, prove here that they need a spiritual leader. First, they had Moses, then Joshua, and now both are gone. The newer generation does not remember all God has done for them. Joshua outlived a lot of people, so when he died, the people no longer had the people around who had *been there done that* with Joshua when they were taking over the land.

Judges 2:10-13

<sup>10</sup> When that entire generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation arose that knew neither Adonai nor the work he had done for Isra'el. <sup>11</sup> Then the people of Isra'el did what was evil from Adonai's perspective and served the ba'alim. <sup>12</sup> They abandoned Adonai, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, selected from the gods of the peoples around them, and worshipped them; this made Adonai angry. <sup>13</sup> They abandoned Adonai and served Ba'al and the 'ashtarot.

They abandoned Adonai, just like an unfaithful spouse who turns to someone else. They gave in to the false god worship that was around them from the people who they did not drive out of the land. God had chosen these people to be **HIS PEOPLE**, yet they turned away from Him and to false gods.

Ba'al (also called Ba'alim) is the pagan false god of the Canaanites. They would offer burnt sacrifices to this false god. This is the false god that we see Elijah go up against on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18).

Ashtarot is the Canaanite false god known as the Queen of Heaven. They offered burnt sacrifices to her. She was the preeminent goddess throughout the land of the Canaanites.

Judges 2:14-15

<sup>14</sup> The anger of Adonai blazed against Isra'el; and he handed them over to pillagers, who plundered them, and to their enemies around them; so that they could no longer resist their enemies. <sup>15</sup> Whenever they launched an attack, the power of Adonai was against them, so that things turned out badly — just as Adonai had said would happen and had sworn to them. They were in dire distress.

God was angry! Rightly so! He was so mad that he backed off and let them fall into captivity and oppression to the Canaanites who they did not drive out of the land. This is a perfect example of **God is a jealous God**. He desires His people to choose Him. God pulled His hand of protection back, and they began to lose battles instead of winning, like they had been when they were walking uprightly with God.

## Judges 2:16-23

<sup>16</sup> But then Adonai raised up judges, who rescued them from the power of those who were plundering them. <sup>17</sup> Yet they did not pay attention to their judges, but made whores of themselves to other gods and worshipped them; they quickly turned away from the path on which their ancestors had walked, the way of obeying Adonai's mitzvot — they failed to do this. <sup>18</sup> When Adonai raised up judges for them, Adonai was with the judge and delivered them from the hands of their enemies throughout the lifetime of the judge; for Adonai was moved to pity by their groaning under those oppressing and crushing them. <sup>19</sup> But after the judge died, they would relapse into worse behavior than that of their ancestors, following other gods to serve and worship them; they abandoned none of their practices or stubborn ways. <sup>20</sup> So the anger of Adonai blazed against Isra'el; he said, "Because this nation violates my covenant, which I ordered their fathers to obey; and they don't pay attention to what I say; <sup>21</sup> in the future, I will not expel ahead of them any of the nations that Y'hoshua left when he died. <sup>22</sup> This is how I will test Isra'el, to see whether or not they will keep the way of Adonai, living according to it, as their ancestors did." <sup>23</sup> So Adonai allowed those nations to remain where they were, without quickly driving them out; he did not hand them over to Y'hoshua.

Here we see the Cycle of Apostasy explained. God would raise up judges, who would rescue them. They people would turn back to God for a time – usually until the judge died. Then when they no longer had a human leader, they would turn away from God again.

We see here that they need a physical leader. They need a Moses, a Joshua. This will eventually lead to **they need a king**. This book sets up the future of Israel when God will bring on the kings.

