

# Judges

## God's response to a fallen nation

### Judges 2:11-23 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

<sup>12</sup> They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger

<sup>13</sup> because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

<sup>14</sup> In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

<sup>15</sup> Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.

<sup>17</sup> Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands.

<sup>18</sup> Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

<sup>19</sup> But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me,

<sup>21</sup> I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

<sup>22</sup> I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did."

<sup>23</sup> The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

## What is God's response to a fallen nation?

### Israel turned away from God

1. God is \_\_\_\_\_ at them.

**Judges 2:12 (NIV)** They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger.

2. God hands them over to the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Judges 2:14 (NIV)** In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them.

3. God released \_\_\_\_\_ of them.

**Judges 2:14 (NIV)** He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

4. God \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Judges 2:21-22 (NIV)** I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD .

5. God \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Judges 2:15 (NIV)** . . . the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

### **Israel pleaded to God for help**

6. God had \_\_\_\_\_ on them.

**Judges 2:18 (NIV)** . . . the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

### **God raised up judges (deliverers) to save them**

**Major Judges:** Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson

**Minor Judges:** Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

### **Israel was saved and given peace**

7. God gave them the \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Judges 3:7-11 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup>The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.

<sup>8</sup>The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years.

<sup>9</sup>But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. <sup>10</sup>The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. <sup>11</sup>So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

### **Israel again turned away from God and became even more corrupt.**

8. When we turn away from God we should \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.

9. When we sin we should \_\_\_\_\_ for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

10. When we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God, we should anticipate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in our heart.