

JUDGES CHAPTER 2

JUDGES FEATURED IN THIS CHAPTER

OTHNIEL

ABIMELECH

ELON

EHUD

TOLA

ABDON

SHAMGAR

JAIR

SAMSON

DEBORAH

JEPHTHAH

ELI

GIDEON

IBZAN

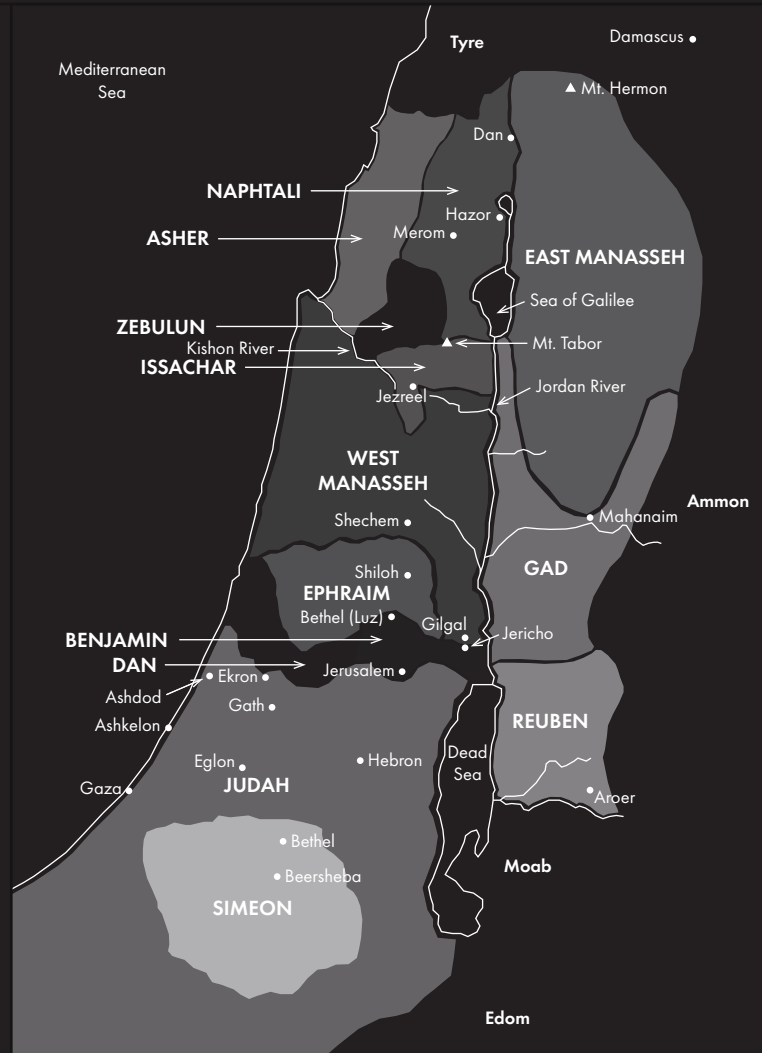
SAMUEL

WHEN

- Most scholars place the period of the Judges somewhere between 1450 B.C. and 1000 B.C.
- The precise dates are still debated.
- The beginning of Judges 2 steps back in time to the years before Joshua's death to explain the moral state of the nation of Israel.

WHERE

- The Angel of the Lord spoke to the people of Israel at Bochim (not on the map).
- The events described in the second half of this chapter occurred all throughout the Promised Land.



CHARACTERS

- **Joshua** - God selected Joshua to lead the people of Israel after the death of Moses in Deuteronomy 34.
- **The Angel of the Lord** - This messenger appeared to the Israelites and rebuked them for failing to keep covenant with God. Many believe the angel was God (a theophany).

OUTLINE

- THE REBUKE OF THE ANGEL OF THE LORD (2:1-5):
 - + The angel of the Lord spoke to the people of Israel at Bochim and rebuked them for not honoring their covenant with God.
 - + God specifically commanded them not to make peace with the foreign inhabitants of the Promised Land, and to destroy all their places of worship, but the Israelites had not obeyed.
 - + The angel of the Lord told them the remaining pagan nations would become thorns and snares to them, and God would not help Israel drive them out.
 - + In response, the Israelites wept, offered sacrifices to God, and named the place Bochim.
- THE DEATH OF JOSHUA'S GENERATION (2:6-10):
 - + The people of Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who knew Joshua.
 - + But after Joshua's generation was "gathered to their fathers," a new generation arose that didn't respect God.
- THE CYCLE OF SIN AND RESTORATION IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES (2:11-23):
 - + This last section of Judges 2 introduces us to a pattern that we'll see repeated throughout the book.
 - + For the next few centuries, the Israelites would fall into a cycle of abandoning God, being punished by God, repenting of their sins, and then being restored by God through His representatives, the Judges.
 - + The Cycle:
 1. The Israelites abandon God and worship idols (2:11-13, 17, 19).
 2. God withdraws His blessing and allows Israel's enemies to subjugate them (2:14-15, 19).
 3. Israel repents and cries to God for help (2:18).
 4. God mercifully sends a judge to deliver the people from their enemies (2:16, 18).

APPLICATION

- In times of hardship and formation, people are typically much more dependent on God.
- In times of ease, people tend to forget about God.
- This plays out on a national and personal level.
- The Israelites relied on God when their nation was in formation, but when they received their blessings and settled in their homes, God was forgotten.
- In the United States, the writings of the founding fathers express their dependence on God's providence in creating a new nation.
- In the 21st Century, in a prosperous and established country, politicians rarely acknowledge the existence of God.
- When we, as individuals go through times of formation and struggle, we tend to remember the importance of God's intervention in the outcome of our circumstances.
- When times are easy and life is comfortable, we tend to give little thought to God's role in our lives.
- One of the marks of spiritual maturity is consistent dependence on and devotion to God through all of life's circumstances.

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