

Lesson 7: Apostasy and Deliverers

Judges 1:1-3:6

4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ



After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel asked the Lord, "Who will fight with us against the Canaanites?" The Lord said the tribe of Judah will go and Simeon will go with him. Judah and Simeon went up and the Lord gave them the Canaanites and Perizzites and defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek.



Adoni-bezek fled but they pursued him. They caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes and he then died. The men of Judah went to fight against Jerusalem, captured it and set the city on fire. Then the men of Judah went to fight against Canaanites who lived in Hebron, the hill country and other cities.



Caleb asked for help to go to battle. He offered up his daughter for a wife. Othniel, his nephew, captured the city. Caleb gave him his daughter for a wife. When she came to him, she asked her father for a blessing. Caleb agreed and gave her the upper and lower springs.



Hebron was given to Caleb as *Moses* had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak. But many of the other tribes did not drive out the Canaanites as God commanded. Judges 1:21-36 lists the tribes of Israel and groups of people that they did not drive out from their land.



An angel of the Lord came to the Israelites he told them that God brought them from Egypt into the land he swore to give it to his fathers God told them he would never break covenant with him and you shall break down your alters but you have not obeyed. When the angel of the Lord spoke these words to the people they lifted up their voices and wept and they all gave sacrifices to the Lord.



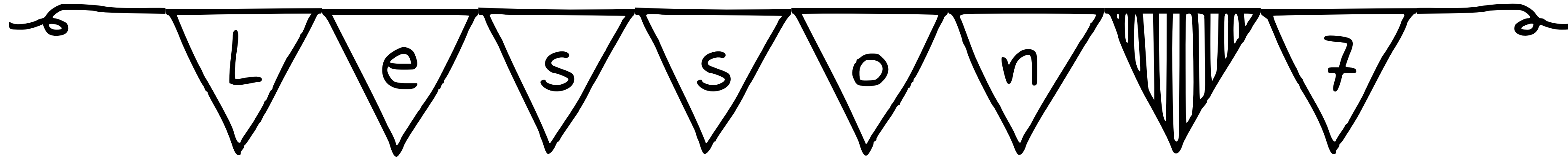
When Joshua died he was buried in the boundaries of his inheritance in the hill country of Ephraim. That generation knew God but the generation after them did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.



The people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and serve false gods. They abandoned the Lord who brought them out of Egypt and began to worship other gods of the people around them. The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel and he gave them over to be plundered. Whenever they marched out to battle, the hand of the Lord was against them and they could no longer withstand their enemies as the Lord had warned them. The Israelites were in terrible distress.

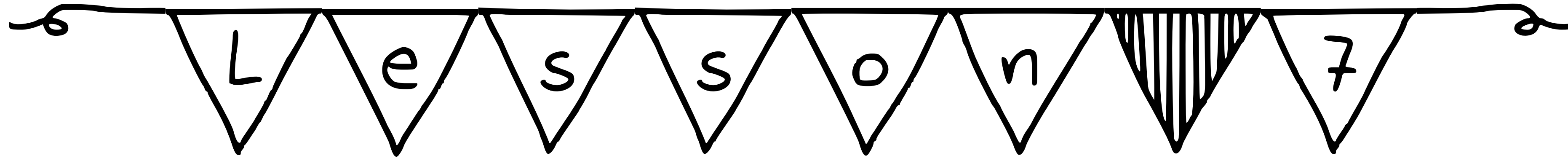


The Lord gave judges to the Israelites yet they did not listen to these judges and continued to serve other gods. They soon turned away from the ways of their fathers, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord. The Lord was with all of the judges and all of the days of the judges he saved them from the hands of the enemy. But whenever the judge died, they turned back to corruption serving and bowing down to other gods. The anger of the Lord was again kindled against Israel. They have transgressed His covenant and have not obeyed His voice. God no longer drove out any of the nations that Joshua left when he died. The people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. They intermarried with them, had children and served their gods.



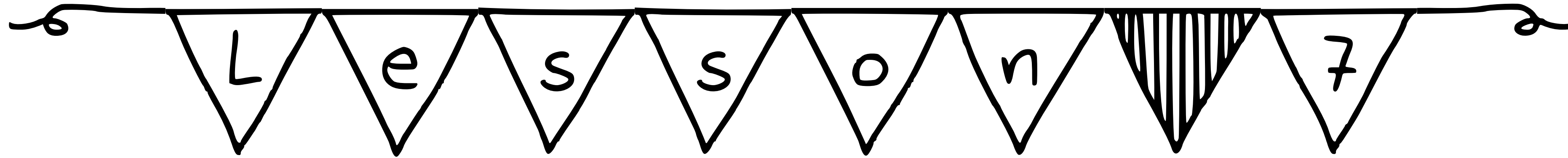
The Israelites did not drive out all of the people of the land of Canaan as he commanded. God was unhappy with his people. Did the Israelites remember to serve God only?

Read Judges 2:7-10. We are only one untaught and undisciplined generation away from not knowing God. Israel will find out the consequences of partial obedience.



The Judges

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Shamgar
4. Deborah
5. Gideon
6. Abimelech
7. Tola
8. Jair
9. Jephthah
10. Ibzan
11. Elon
12. Abdon
13. Samson
14. Eli
15. Samuel



God punishes repeated disobedience.

When His people repent, God sends someone
to rescue them.

God does not require flawless or powerful
leaders but obedient leaders.

Abandoning God's laws results in chaos.

In love, God honors his covenant even when
His people don't.