

PART ONE: THE FAILURE OF THE ISRAELITES TO CONQUER CANAAN

Prologue: Israel's Failure to Possess the Land (1:1 – 2:5)

“The book of Judges begins by looking backwards, and ends by looking forwards. This period of Israel's history opens: “After the death of Joshua” (1:1); its final words strain toward the age of monarchy, of Saul, David, Solomon and their successors: “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit” (21:25). To understand and appreciate the great peaks and troughs, the triumphs and (more often) the tragedies of the time of the judges, we must begin by looking over our shoulders, as 1:1 encourages us to do.” (Keller 15)

Half-hearted Discipleship (1:1-36)

Promise-Keeping God

What do we learn by looking back at the Book of Joshua?

1. Joshua was Moses' chosen successor to lead the people of Israel (Numbers 27:12-23).
2. The Book of Joshua chronicles the work of God in and through His people in conquering the land that was promised to their ancestors. It is a book that teaches us that the people of God can bravely obey and worship Him because God keeps His promises.
3. For the most part, the Israelites obeyed and trusted God in the conquest of Canaan during the life of Joshua, but there was still much that was left undone at the end of his life.

Brave Spirituality

What was God's call for His people in regard to the Promised Land? Why?

Successes and Failures of Judah

As Judah goes to battle, in what ways are they faithful and in what ways are they flawed?

Common Sense

What is it that keeps us from whole-heartedly enjoying the promises of God?

Failures of the Remaining Tribes

What happened with the rest of the tribes and their conquests?
