

Lesson #9 – Taking the Land as Their Own

Joshua lived about 25 years after he led the Israelites into the Promised Land. He and Caleb were the two faithful men who trusted God to help them take over the land. They were great friends.

Joshua divided the land as an inheritance for each tribe. Joshua also set aside 6 cities of refuge or safety. Joshua had done all that God asked of him. He was very old and was near the end of his life. He told the people to serve the Lord and not to worship idols.

At 110 years of age Joshua died on his land, his inheritance, in the mountains of Ephraim. As long as Joshua lived, the Israelites served God. They only worshipped God as long as the elders or older men were alive. However, when all of those people died, the Israelites began to slip into sin.,

The Israelites began to be friends with and even marry those who bowed down to idols. (Read Judges 2:7-13). They forsook the Lord and began to follow the gods or idols of those around them. They served the idols Baal and Ashteroth.

The Lord was very angry with the Israelites. They took part in evil and forgot God's ways. God let some of the nations near them overcome them, and the Israelites became their slaves (Judges 2:14, 15) (Judges 3:6-8)

When the Israelites cried to God for help, He sent a deliverer, a judge, to help them. The first Judge was Othniel, Caleb's nephew. He won the war against the evil nations and things were good for 40 years (Judges 3:9-11).

Again, the Israelites did evil and the king of Moab, Eglon, captured them for 18 years. He was very cruel to the Israelites. When the people begged God for help, He sent Ehud as judge. Ehud tricked Eglon, the evil king, into a private meeting where Ehud stabbed Eglon with a dagger. The people were again free! (Judges 3: 12-22).

After 40 years, Ehud died and the people did evil again. Shamgar became the 3rd Judge and delivered Israel. (Judges 3:29-31), Why could Israel not learn to remain true to God?

We must remember to be true to God. He will help us if we serve Him. If we forget God's commands, we too will suffer. God is an ever present help to the faithful. We must obey and teach others to obey God.

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DRAW A LINE TO MATCH

King of Moab	110
Great Leader	Weapon
First judge of Israel	Inheritance
Dagger	Eglon
Ago of Joshua at death	Ehud
2 nd Judge of Israel	Joshua
Faithful Friend of Joshua	Shamgar
Evil Act	Othniel
Divided land	Caleb
3 rd Judge of Israel	Idol Worship