

## UNLIKELY LEADERS WITH AMAZING POWER

*"Living in a World of Idols"*

### Judges 1-2

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. History is simply mankind's response to God's Word.
  - a) **Proverbs 14:34**
    - 1) **FACT #1:** Nations that fear God enjoy His favor.
    - 2) **FACT #2:** Nations that don't fear God experience His severity.
  - b) **Bringing it home:**
    - 1) People (individuals) that fear God enjoy His favor.
    - 2) Individuals who do not fear God experience His severity.
2. For the most part people today do not embrace absolute beliefs.
  - a) They take a little bit of everything:
  - b) That's called - "**Pluralism**"
    - 1) Pluralism in religion holds the idea that many roads lead to heaven.
3. The Judges here were not black robed jurists arbitrating law.
  - a) The Hebrew word "**Judge**" - means to deliver or to rule.

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM JUDGES

### I. THE POWER OF GODLY LEADERSHIP

1. **Judges 2:16**
2. In the book of Judges we find Godly leadership.
3. And these leaders vary widely in their personalities.

### II. THE FICKLENESS OF THE HUMAN HEART

1. **Judges 3:7-9, 11**
  - a) Sin
    - 1) Vs 7
  - b) Servitude
    - 1) Vs 8

c) **Supplication**

1) Vs 9a

d) **Salvation**

1) Vs 9b

a) "a deliverer"

e) **Silence**

1. Vs 11a

2. That 5 phase cycle occurs throughout the book of Judges.

### III. THE FINE LINE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE

1. **Judges 2:6-9**

2. As the book of Judges begins as the days of Joshua comes to a close.

a) Joshua was given a huge endorsement for his leadership on two occasions.

1) **Joshua 2:7**

2) **Joshua 24:31**

3. **Judges 2:10**

4. **Judges 2:17**

a) "for they whored after other gods"

1) Physically and spiritually

5. **James 4:1-5**

6. What a scary thought: The death of Joshua ushered in a period of declination.

a) **Judges 17:6**

### IV. WE LEARN ABOUT - THE JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL DECLINE

1. **Exodus 23:23-24**

2. Why would God make such a requirement?

3. **THIS IS WHY!!**

a) The Canaanites were engaged in temple prostitution.

b) They performed rituals for "Fertility rites."

- c) Participated in drunken orgies.
- d) Idolatry
- e) Homosexuality
- f) Human sacrifice - their own babies.

#### 4. *Joshua 10:40*

### FOUR STEPS OF DECLINE

#### A. TOLERATION

1. *Judges 1:21*

#### B. ASSIMILATION

1. *Judges 1:27, 29, 34; 3:5*

#### C. IMMITATION

1. *Judges 2:11-13*

2. *John 17:6*

#### D. REJECTION

1. **Pluralism** -mixing the one true God with the false gods of the Canaanites.

2. *Judges 2:13*

a) "*abandoned*" - means to forsake.

b) Vs 12

3. *Deuteronomy 6:4*

4. So God sends judgment.

a) When it comes, they cry out to God for deliverance.

b) And God sends a Judge (deliverer) one who judges.

### V. WE LEARN ABOUT - THE CHARACTER OF GOD

#### A. THE ANGER OF THE LORD

1. *Judges 2:11-15*

#### B. THE MERCY OF THE LORD

## 1. Judges 2:16-18

### CONCLUSION: TRUTH TO HOLD ONTO

1. *Times may change, but truth does not.*
  - a) The world we live in really puts us to the test.
  - b) The pressure is on.
  - c) When we compromise the truth we remove from the culture what it needs.
  
2. *Times change but Jesus doesn't.*
  - a) **John 14:6**