

Incomplete Obedience

Judges 1

I. Background Issues in the book of Judges

- A. Importance of this 350 year era
- Judges is 1/3 of Israel history (Moses to Malachi)
 - God's Blessing – Promised Land and God's law
 - Theocracy – God was the ruler.
- B. Spiritual test of Israel: Would they obey God in time of blessing?

II. The Spiritual failure of incomplete obedience (Judges 1)

- A. The tribes of Judah and Simeon defeated many Canaanites in the hill country of their allotted territory (Judges 1:1-19a).
- They succeeded because God was with them (19a).
- B. Judah and Simeon failed to defeat Canaanites in the plains who had iron chariots (Judges 1:19b).
Why did they fail to drive out the people of the plains?
- They failed to trust God without their past leader.
 - They failed to trust God outside of their comfort zones.
- C. The other tribes also failed (Judges 1:21-36).
Why was it wrong to not completely drive out Canaanites?
- It was direct disobedience of God's command
 - It produced the danger of intermarriage and other pagan influences.
 - Using them as slaves was an issue of greed.
- D. Personal Evaluation:
- Will we finish what God has begun for us?
 - Will we obey only to the degree we are comfortable?
 - At what issue of obedience to God are we stopping?