

Today's Message: It Doesn't Have To Be This Way

Series: Judges

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024

Big Idea: We Can Trust That God Will Respond To Our Poor Choices And Our Repentance!

But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land. When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but **never drove** them out completely. Nor did Ephraim **drive out** the Canaanites....Neither did Zebulun **drive out** the Canaanites...Nor did Asher **drive out**The Asherites lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land because they **did not drive them out**. Neither did Naphtali **drive out**.... but the Naphtalites too **lived** among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land....The Amorites **confined** the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain. (Judges 1:27-34 selected passages)

1. What we allow to _____ in our lives can become the source of challenges in our life.

After Joshua had dismissed the **Israelites**, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites **did evil** in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They **forsook** the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt.

2. What we allow to linger may severely damage our _____.

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They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In his anger against Israel the LORD gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. **They were in great distress.** (Judges 2:6-15)

3. God will _____ to our disobedience with substantial discipline.

The **Israelites did** evil in the eyes of the **LORD**; **they forgot** the **LORD** their **God** and **served** the Baals and the Asherahs. The anger of the **LORD** **burned** against **Israel** so that he **sold** them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the **Israelites** were subject for eight years. But when they **cried out** to the **LORD**, he **raised up** for them **a deliverer**, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. The Spirit of the LORD came [on] him, so that **he became** Israel's **judge** and **went** to war. **The LORD** **who overpowered** him. So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died. (Judges 3:7-11)

4. God will _____ us from the discipline once the distress causes us to reach back to Him.

Ans: 1) remain 2) legacy 3) respond 4) deliver