

“Who Broke the Covenant?”

Sermon Notes

➤ **In a land of sexual deviancy, God’s people are bound to ask, *what happened?***

Know this...

(1) God is always faithful (1:2,4, 7, 11-15, 19, 22; 2:1; Deut 7:1-11)

(2) Yet like Israel, we falter in our allegiances (1:6-7, 8, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34; 2:2-3)

*** So weep and look to the sacrifice of Christ (2:4-5; James 4:1-10)*

MEFC Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of November 27th – December 3rd

Introduction: For reflection

The Canaanites were a sexually deviant people (see Lev 18). What is it like living in the sexual insanity of our day? In what ways is the culture encroaching upon the church?

Context

1. Judges 1 describes several individuals and groups. Take some time to recall what you know about these men and women from the Scripture:

(1) Joshua (see Num 13:1-14:38; Num 32:11-12; Joshua)

(2) Caleb (see Gen 15:19; Num 13:1-14:38; 32:11-12; Josh 14:6-15; 15:13-19)

(3) Othniel (see Judges 3:7-11)

(4) Twelve Tribes of Israel - what are different ways of counting up the 12 tribes? Which two tribes make up the house of Joseph? Which tribes are missing in Judges 1, and why might that be?

(5) Who were the Kenites (see Gen 15:19; Num 24:21; Judg 4:11, 17; 5:24; 1 Sam 15:6; 27:10; 30:29; 1 Ch 2:55)?

(6) What was the importance of these three cities in Israel's history and politics: Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethel?

2. The Israelites go up to fight against the Canaanites. Why are they on a divine mission to destroy whole people groups? Start with Genesis 9:20-27, then Gen 10:15-20; Abraham (Gen 13:7; 15:18-21); Moses (Exod 3:8, 17); Israel (Deut 7:1-11; 12:3; 20:17; Lev 18); even down to Ezra (Ezra 9:1).

Observation and Meaning

1. Notice that Judges moves geographically from south (Judah) to north (Dan), but also conveys a progression about the relative success of the tribes in their campaign. What is the "theological geography" going on here?

2. What evidence is there that things went well? What was the essential key to the success of Israel?

3. What evidence is there that things went poorly? How did Canaan encroach upon God's people? In what ways did Israel falter in their allegiances?

4. In a single sentence of your own summarize the main idea of Judges 1. Summarize Judges 2:1-5.

Application

1. What have you learned, or been reminded of, about who God is, his relationship with his people, and what he expects of his people?

2. How has God been faithful to you? How has he given you victory over a "Canaanite" way of living?

3. Where do you falter in your allegiance to God, your family, your church, and your neighbors? Take your failed allegiances and weep at the sacrificial cross of Christ.