

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue
JUDGES

Judges 2:6-3:6

Downward Cycle of Sin

⁶When Joshua had dismissed the people, the sons of Israel went each to his inheritance to possess the land.

⁷The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

⁸Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten.

⁹And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.

Judges 2:6-10

Downward Cycle

1. The absence of experiential religion

- no personal, relational knowledge of the Lord or His saving activity
- this is the peculiar danger of subsequent generations

Downward Cycle

2. The enticement of Idolatry



Ba'al

the storm-god; brought rain and fertility

Downward Cycle

2. The enticement of Idolatry

- idolatry appeals to our basic desires and promises fulfillment apart from God
- “the purpose of all idolatry is to manipulate the idol for our own benefit” (Ed Welch)

Downward Cycle

3. The judgment and mercy of Yahweh

a) His anger

- His anger is an inevitable and necessary reaction of His holy love (jealousy)
- His judgments are the actions of His disciplinary love

Downward Cycle

3. The judgment and mercy of Yahweh

b) His compassion

- God by nature is merciful and compassionate; we do not make Him merciful
- the affliction and misery of His people elicits His compassionate response