



The Book of Judges - Riding the Handbasket to Hell

Part I: The Handbasket to Hell; Ehud guts Eglon like a Fish

Judges 1

¹⁹ The LORD was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had chariots fitted with iron.²⁰ As Moses had promised, Hebron was given to Caleb, who drove from it the three sons of Anak.

The Benjamites, however, did not drive out the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the Benjamites.

chariots fitted with iron because horses do better on a flat surface like a plain than they do in the hills. Horses don't work well in hill country at all, but donkeys do - so later we'll read several times that some of the judges and their sons rode donkeys.

to this day up to the time of the writer (probably Samuel).

What effect did this have over the long term, that the Benjamites never got rid of the pagan Jebusites among them?

A. 2 Samuel 5:7-9 - Bibles, page 217

Jebusites were still around 300 years later, at the time of David, occupying the city of Jerusalem. David had to get rid of them to take over Jerusalem and make it his capital. He got them out of Jerusalem, but *didn't get rid of them completely*

B. 1 Kings 9:20-21 - Bibles, page 245

Solomon's strategy was to turn them into slaves (*to keep them under control rather than get rid of them*).

C. Ezra 9:1-3 - Bibles, page 346

The Jebusites were still in the area hundreds of years later, even

after the return of the people from the Exile. By that time they were no longer slaves but had been marrying into the tribes of the Israelites – including the priests, the Levites, and the leaders of Israel.

+++++

What might this say to us about the long term effects of being haphazard and lazy rather than dealing vigorously with the sin in our own lives?

How well does it work, when we try to keep sin under control rather than be rid of it? How long does that last?

Leaders are the ones that are supposed to know better; they're also the ones that rationalize the quickest. How do we rationalize our sins?

27 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. (continue on through verse 36. . .)

Sometimes sin is very determined to stay!

*(The Amorites were the pagans; the Danites were the Israelite tribe)
Is it you that controls your sin, or is it your sin that controls you? Many times people will say "I've got it under control" when it's obvious to others that the "it" has control over the person!*

34 The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain. **35** And the Amorites were determined also to hold out in Mount Heres, Aijalon and Shaalbim, but when the power of the tribes of Joseph increased, they too were pressed into forced labor.

Is there something about which you say "I've got it under control" when you know you're just kidding yourself?

2 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I



brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, ² and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? ³ And I have also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.'"

⁴ When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, ⁵ and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the LORD.

⁶ After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. ⁷ 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.

⁸ Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. ⁹ And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹² They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger ¹³ because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. **17** Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the LORD's commands. **18** Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. **19** But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, **21** I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. **22** I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did." **23** The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

Judges 3:12-30 Ehud Guts Eglon Like a Fish

Any questions?