

When Men Forget about God

(Judges 3:7)

The book of Judges is a stark contrast to we find in the book of Joshua. Whereas in Joshua, we find the children of Israel enjoying the land of Canaan and promising to be faithful to God, in Judges we find them breaking that promise. In Judges, we find God's people mingling with the surrounding heathen nations and engaging in idolatry.

Unfortunately, after conquering Canaan, in time they forget about God (Judges 2:10-13; 3:1-7). They forgot to be faithful to God and keep His commandments!

Here are four things that happen when people forget about God:

I. They live rebellious lives.

A. Judges reveals a terrible cycle that existed in Israel for over 300 years.

1. Rebellion (Judges 3:7).
2. Retribution (Judges 3:8).
3. Repentance (Judges 3:9).
4. Rescue (Judges 3:10).
5. Rest (Judges 3:11).

B. This terrible cycle began with the children of Israel rebelling (Judges 2:13; 3:7; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1; 17:6; 21:25). We too can fall into this trap!

II. They suffer.

A. See Joshua 23:11-13; Judges 1:28; 2:13-15; 3:7-8, 12-14; 6:1-2. Had the people just obeyed God, they could have avoid suffering at the hands of their enemies.

B. Will we learn from their mistake? Will we remember that God is wiser than us and when we listen to Him we can avoid so many pitfalls in life?

III. They falsely believe they are self-sufficient.

A. This is why each time God heard Israel's prayers and delivered them, in time they would start engaging in sin again (Judges 4:1; 10:6).

B. We have to challenge ourselves to always remember that we need God!

1. We need God during the good times and the bad times.
2. We need God all the time because without Him we are nothing. See Acts 17:28.

IV. God doesn't forget about them.

A. Despite their constant rebellion, God continued to be mindful of children of Israel.

1. When His people would come to their senses and repent, God would have mercy on them (Judges 3:9, 15; 10:10 16).

2. It is important that we don't overlook the mercy of God revealed as we read this book.

B. While God is certainly just, He is also loving and forgiving (John 3:16; Hebrews 10:17).

1. He is always ready to forgive when we are willing to humble ourselves before Him.
2. Let us never take His love and mercy for granted!

Conclusion: Do you need to be delivered from your sins this morning?