

# THE GREAT TRANSITION

## FROM JOSHUA TO JUDGES

### Let's Dig In:

The transition between Joshua and Judges is one of the most critical moments in the history of Israel. Look at it like this. It's a shift from people who conquered under strong leadership, to people who faltered without it.

### Setting the Stage:

Let's set the stage for this little, but valuable piece of the story. During Joshua's Era Israel experienced unified leadership, amazing victories, and the fulfillment of God's promise to give the land.

- They were bold, militant, and totally dependent on God.
- Obedience brought victory, disobedience brought setbacks.

The book of Judges opens. (Judges 1:1) "After the death of Joshua the Israelites asked the Lord who of us will go up first to fight against the Canaanites."

- Leadership Vacuum: Joshua is gone and there is no single leader to replace him. Israel is now shifting from a centralized leadership to what I would call a tribal confederacy.
- They still seek God's guidance, but it wouldn't be long before the cracks in their obedience will show.

### Israel's Mindset in Transition:

From champions to underdogs without Joshua's bold stance. The people completely lose their collective vision. They have entered the land but have not fully possessed it. Some of the tribes became very complacent, tolerating the bull of the Canaanites instead of driving them out completely. (Judges 1:27-36)

### From Obedience to Compromise:

They start strong. (Judges 1;1-2) They go to God and ask who should go up first. But it wouldn't be long before comfort and convenience set in and soon replaces their faith. Instead, they decide to adopt partial obedience which turns into full blown compromise.

## **From Unity to Fractured:**

Instead of staying the unified front, tribes begin acting independently of one another. This fractures their strength and most importantly weakens their spiritual focus.

## **The Spiritual Decline:**

The book of Judges will continually show the mindset of the people. It appears to me to be a pattern or a cycle. Let's look at what will become a pattern for the people of Israel.

**Sin** – They forget God and chase idols.

**Servitude** – They are oppressed by their enemies. Isn't it funny how we can be in covenant with God and yet be oppressed at the same time.

**Supplication** – They cry out to God.

Salvation – God raises a judge.

**Silence** – A season of peace until the cycle starts all over again.

- **Valuable Life Principles:**

1. **Don't confuse partial victory with total obedience.**

Israel thought that living in mostly obedience would be good enough. But that's not the case at all. God calls us to finish the fight. (2 Timothy 4:7-8) Whether it is sin habits, fear, doubt. Partial or delayed obedience along with half hearted faith leaves footholds for the enemy.

2. **Leadership is Important, Personal faith is essential.**

Under Joshua's leadership Israel thrived. But when he was gone many faltered. The truth is that faith isn't borrowed, it must be personal, daily, and deeply rooted in God's word.

3. **Complacency Breeds Compromise:**

Just as Israel tolerated the Canaanite altars, we too can allow tiny sins to linger. If not dealt with promptly those footholds will grow to be strongholds.

- **A One Line Summary:** Israel moved from the victories of Joshua to the failures of Judges because they transitioned from faith filled obedience to complacent compromise. A perfect recipe for disaster.

- **Life application For Us:**

Don't settle for partial victories, destroy the sin, don't just damage it.

Example – Don't just cut back on bitterness, lust, doubt, or fear. Totally root it out.

- **Faith is not Inherited:**

Joshua's generation knew the work of God. The next only heard memories.

Faith is much more than memories.

- **When Leadership is Absent, Faith Must be Present:**

Don't just lean on your pastor, mentor, or family's faith. We should build personal faith with convictions that are rooted in the word of God.

**Let Me Ask You:**

1. In what ways like Israel do you settle for partial obedience?
2. What part of the S cycle do you see most clearly in your world today? Sin, Servitude, Supplication, Salvation, or Silence.

**Let's Wrap it Up:**

The transition from Joshua to Judges is simply a story of the people of Israel going from God's victories to man's compromise. We also see a key warning as well. Yesterday's obedience cannot carry today's faith. I also have a personal challenge for you as well. Keep your faith. Finish your fight, and whatever you do, don't let complacency rob you of your victory.

I truly hoped this blessed you today and I encourage you to follow us through out the book of Judges. I hope you have an amazingly blessed day.

Lite Winds,

Derek Tod

PS, I wouldn't leave you without giving you a powerful takeaway statement. So here it is. This is going to taste nasty going down, but I promise it is very healthy. Drive out what God say's drive out. What you tolerate today, will dominate you tomorrow. God's love to you.