

Destruction or Devotion?

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Prior to this week, each week we have heard a sermon that led us into the reading for the week. Starting this week, we will hear a sermon based on the material we have already read for the week. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

The book of Joshua ended with Joshua challenging Israel to "*choose this day whom you will serve!*" Judges opens with this conquest still moving forward. Israel had received 2/3 the promises made to Abraham many generations prior. They had been given many offspring, they had been given land, but would they become a blessing to the world? Would they be a people devoted to the Lord or would they suffer destruction?

The first 26 verses of the book seemed to indicate that Israel would do what the Lord had instructed them. However, verse 27 says, "*Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages...*" thus starting a downward spiral of failure to complete the conquest. Chapter 2 of Judges then gives a summary of what would follow in the generations to come. Israel turned away from the Lord and began to serve false gods. This led them to rampant immorality. God's response to His covenant people was to "*give them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And He sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies*" (2:14). When Israel would cry out to God for help He would send a judge, a military leader who would save them from their oppressors. However, after the judge died, Israel returned to their old ways. The cycle was repeated generation after generation. Throughout the text and at the end of Judges, we see this constant refrain, "*In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes*" (21:25).

Judges ends with the need for a king. No leader like Moses or Joshua had been raised up. The people were like sheep without a shepherd. They wondered in darkness in need of mercy because of their sin and hope of someone to lead them into righteousness. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of this needed King in Israel. We see that our sin and its consequences is the same as Israel's however our hope is in a King who rules us perfectly, saves us eternally, loves us abundantly, and sends us globally.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, examine your devotion to this King. Do you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Is this demonstrated by loving your neighbor as yourself? Or are you devoted to idolatry and serving yourself? The consequences are great. Our prayer is that your life is identified by devotion and not destruction.

Message Outline

Israel:

1. Their sin was idolatry.
2. Their consequence was immorality.
3. Their judgment was slavery.
4. Their deliverance was temporary.

The judges were:

- Flawed.
- People of Faith.

5. Their hope would be in royalty.

Israel needed:

- Mercy.
- a King.

Us:

1. Our sin is the same as Israel.
Idolatry → Immorality → Slavery.
2. Our Hope is in Jesus.
 - He rules us perfectly.
 - He saves us eternally.
 - He loves us abundantly.
 - He sends us globally.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Judges 2:6-23:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for new workers on the mission field.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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