

# IDOLATROUS: Judges 2:6–3:6

By Brett Baggett on Sunday, January 19th, 2020

## I. EVEN THOUGH JOSHUA AND HIS GENERATION SERVED THE LORD, THE NEXT GENERATION DID NOT (v. 2:7-10)

- Judges 2:10 “Did not know the LORD.” (Cf. “I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.” Hosea 2:20)

## II. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ABANDONED THE LORD FOR FALSE GODS (v. 2:11-15)

- Judges 2:11 “The people did evil in the sight of the LORD” (this phrase is used 7 times in the book of Judges, and it is always followed by which king they became dominated by. Cf 1 Kings 15:5,11 for the opposite phrase: “David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.”)
- Judges 2:11 “Baals” (“Baals, the plural expressing his various aspects and images, as different locations represented him... Baal means “lord.” The sun-god, worshipped on high places by the Phoenicians and the Canaanites as the source of life, generation, and reproduction.” Andrew R. Faucett)
- Judges 2:13c “Ashteroth” (The moon goddess)
- JEREMIAH 2:5-6 5 Thus says the LORD: “What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? 6 They did not say, ‘Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’
- JEREMIAH 2:11-13 11 Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. 12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

## III. THOUGH THE LORD’S ANGER WAS KINDLED AGAINST ISRAEL, HE RAISED UP JUDGES TO SAVE THEM BECAUSE OF HIS STEADFAST LOVE (yet they did not listen to their Judges) (v. 2:16-19)

- WHORED = (Cf. Hosea 2:20 “I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.”)
- Hosea and Gomer = The LORD and His people.

## IV. THE LORD LEFT THE NATIONS AMONG ISRAEL TO TEST THEM (they failed the test v.6) (v. 2:20–3:6)

- We do not need second chances in order to uphold our end of the Covenant between God and man.
- The book of Judges should constantly make us say: Oh! how we need the covenant-making GOD to become a covenant-keeping MAN on our behalf.

## Q. So what?

# APPLICATION

## I. TWO THINGS CONCERNING IDOLATRY

**Q. What is idolatry?** **A.** Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security. *(That's fundamentally why Israel went after the Bulls and the Ashteroth - because of what they promised to give their worshippers—yet they are broken cisterns that cannot hold water)*

1. You can identify idols in your life by examining what you are **1) SERVING** (v.13), **2) BOWING DOWN TO** (v.17), and by examining what determines your practices **3) PRACTICES/HABITS** (v.19c)
2. When you abandon the LORD, it is always for an idol; when you look to an idol, you are abandoning the LORD.

## II. THREE WARNINGS FOR US

1. **We must be rigorous in remembering the gospel or we will forget the LORD.**
  - **DEUT. 6:4-6** **4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
2. **We must be rigorous in teaching the next generation the gospel or they will forget the LORD.**
  - **DEUT. 6:7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
3. **We must be rigorous in teaching the next generation that they must teach the next generation the gospel or they will forget the LORD.**

## III. WHAT WE REALLY NEED

1. **We need a leader like Joshua, but better.** One who does not only lead by example but who can also change our hearts to love the LORD as we ought, all our days. Furthermore, we need a leader who will not die! And in Jesus, that's exactly what we have.
  - **ROM. 6:9** “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.”
2. **We need the LORD to raise up for us a Savior** who can deal with the evil we have done in the sight of the LORD (v.11); a Savior who can bring us back to the LORD after our abandoning Him to go after Idols (v. 11-12). And oh! has he raised One up!
  - **HE RAISED HIM UP AS OUR RIGHTEOUS LEADER IN HIS LIFE; HE RAISED HIM UP AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR SIN ON THE CROSS IN HIS DEATH; THEN HE RAISED HIM UP AS OUR ETERNAL SAVIOR FROM DEATH TO ETERNAL LIFE IN HIS RESURRECTION!**
  - **ACTS. 2:23-24** “Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan & foreknowledge of God, you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
3. **We need the LORD to provide a substitute that WILL PASS THE TEST!**
  - **MATTHEW 26:38-39** **38** Then [Jesus] said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” **39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”
  - Oh! how we need the covenant-making GOD to become a covenant-keeping MAN on our behalf.
  - **AND WE HAVE ONE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**