

## Judges 2:6-10

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## Judges 2:11-12

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### Progression unfolds:

- Prosperity—Judges 2:6-10
- Apostasy—Judges 1:11-12
- Anarchy—Judges 17:6

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

—Judges 17:6

**Like Gideon—  
Embrace the Power of  
God's Presence.**

<sup>11</sup>Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."

—Judges 6:11-12

“Quite frankly, when I look at the secular world in which we are living and realize the powerful attacks of anti-Christian forces on biblical truths and values, I feel much like Gideon did before the Midianites—puny, helpless, and insignificant. Paul was right; Christians do not contend with flesh and blood, but against powerful, satanic forces.

“The only answer I know to that kind of satanic discouragement is to claim the promise of the presence of God and order my life around the truth that the Holy Spirit dwells in me. I do not serve Him in my own strength.”

—Gary Inrig, *Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay*

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:18-20

**Like Barak and Deborah—  
Discover the Dynamic of  
Partnership.**

Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.”

—Judges 4:8

**Like Jephthah—  
Understand you don't have to  
fit the mold for God to make  
you fit for His use.**

<sup>1</sup>Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah. <sup>2</sup>And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." <sup>3</sup>Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and worthless fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him. —**Judges 11:1-3**

**Like Samson—  
Although you may have  
been part of the problem,  
you can—by God's grace—  
be part of the solution.**

Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes."

—**Judges 16:28**

And what more shall I say?  
For time would fail me to tell of  
Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah,  
of David and Samuel and the  
prophets... —**Judges 16:28**

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small, daily difference we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee." —**Marian Wright Edleman**

"How many estimate difficulties in the light of their own resources, and thus attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt! All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for god because they reckoned on His being with them." —**Hudson Taylor**