

Series on Judges
Already but Not Yet
Judges 1:1- 2:5
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Theologians and teachers of the Bible tell us that, like Israel in the book of Judges we are caught between the “already” of what God has done and the “not yet” of what God has yet to complete. At times we grow so overwhelmed by the “not yet” that we wonder if the “already” will ever really triumph. *Judges*, both in its broader context and in its details, promises the triumph of the “already.”

I) Israel—weak and unfaithful

A) Weak

B) Lazy

C) Results for Israel

II) God—strong and faithful

A) Still judging the nations: Adoni-Bezek

B) Still raising up vigorous leader: Caleb and Othniel

C) Still on target: Judah

D) Why so important to see the triumph of Judah?

Take Away

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Recall and discuss an occasion when your circumstances or a personal struggle overwhelmed your confidence in the promises of God.
- 2) Theologians say that believers are caught between the “already” and the “not yet”. What were the “already’s” and the “not yet’s” for Israel when the book of Judges began? Compare the “already’s” in Romans 5-6 with the “not yet’s” in Romans 7-8. Which tend to control your life more?
- 3) Itemize the weakness and laziness of Israel in Judges 1.1-2.5.
- 4) Itemize the evidence of God’s faithfulness and power in Judges 1.1-2.5.

- 5) Compare Judah to the other tribes in Judges 1.
- 6) Imagine you are a Jew living at the time when David has finally won over Saul and the surrounding nations and has been crowned king over a united Israel (a likely time for the appearance of the book of Judges). What encouragements would reading Judges 1 have for you?
- 7) Reflect on the following statement: “Just as the darkness in *Judges* was to give way to the light of David and his reign, so the darkness that was to rise after David’s reign would give way to David’s greater Son Jesus. When God said in v.2, ‘Judah shall go up: behold I have given the land into his hands,’ he was promising something greater: ‘My Son Jesus shall go up: behold I have given the world into his hands.’ And when God said, ‘I will never break my covenant,’ he meant something that Israel at the time could not have guessed at, but what we now know. He meant that he himself would one day come to bear all the curses for our faithlessness so that his promise to make us his own and keep us his own, to heal us, to cleanse and renew us, to make us his people forever, to bless not just Israel but all the nations of the world—so that all these promises might be kept.”
- 8) Read Judges 2:1-5. Name one “altar” you mean to pull down this week. It could be a resentment, a fear, a regret, a habit, an excuse, an argument you need to win. Pray for God’s help to do so.