

JUDGES: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

MARRIAGE: WINNING OR LOSING? OTHNIEL AND SAMSON

Text: Judges 1:1-3:11 and chapters 13-16

1. How did God test Israel during the period of the Judges after Joshua died? What did God teach Israel during that period of time (Judges 3:1-6)?
2. What was one of the main reasons Israel went away from the Lord (Judges 3:6)?
3. Who was the first judge? What did the Lord do for him? What were the two steps he took in bringing Israel back to the Lord (Judges 3:7-11).
4. The first judge married Acsah. Who was she and how did he marry her? When Caleb offered her to the man who would attack Debir what did he want in a son-in-law? What was she like? There were 2 things she wanted. What were they? How did the 2 things she wanted fit into God's plans for his people? Remember what God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Judges 1:11-15 and Genesis 12:7). Why was marrying Acsah by the first judge an answer to the spiritual and moral problems of Israel?
5. How were Samson's women different from Acsah? Who were they and how could you characterize them morally and spiritually (Judges 14:1-3; 16:1-3 and 16:4-6)?
6. As you think about the wars of Samson against the Philistines how would you describe these battles (Judges 13:5; 14:10-19; 14:20-15:8; 15:9-17 and 16:27-30)? Would you describe these battles as God's battles or Samson's?
7. What do the following cases, both positive and negative teach about how important the relationship between men and women is in spiritual life and ministry?
 - Solomon (I Kings 11:1-11)
 - Joshua (Joshua 23:12, 13 ... Joshua 24:15)
 - Ahab (I Kings 21:25)
 - II Corinthians 6:14
 - Acts 18:24-28