

--We are studying the entire book of JUDGES!

TODAY:

WEEK 2 – READY TO WAR

We have seen 3 generations – the **Wilderness generation** of Moses, the **Conquering Generation** of Joshua, and the **NEW generation** of Israelites that have risen up – WITH NO KING – and instead of seeking GOD – they have REBELLED against Him

They have set their hearts on sinful things, replacing the worship of the FATHER with the worship of other gods...like BAAL (other husbands)

As a result, God has taken His hand off of them and has told them "I will leave the the enemy in your territory and I will not drive them out, IM TAKING MY HAND OFF

BUT – throughout the REST of the book of JUDGES – we see the GOODNESS of God – every time the PEOPLE CRY OUT – he sends a JUDGE

SHAPHAT – one who is brought to make it so that they can rule again in their right standing with God

HIS GOAL is always – I WANT TO REDEEM THE KINGLESS KINGDOMS...

SO TODAY we see the implantation of the first JUDGES as the people cry out to GOD

Judges 2:20-23 (NLT)

20 So the Lord burned with anger against Israel. He said, "Because these people have violated my covenant, which I made with their ancestors, and have ignored my commands, 21 I will no longer drive out the nations that Joshua left unconquered when he died. 22 I did this to test Israel—to see whether or not they would follow the ways of the Lord as their ancestors did." 23 That is why the Lord left those nations in place. He did not quickly drive them out or allow Joshua to conquer them all.

GOD SAYS – I will leave them...and IF they are obedient to me, I WILL NOT HINDER GROWTH....

Judges 3:1-2 (NLT)

1 These are the nations that the Lord left in the land to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. 2 He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle.

The word "TEST" here actually means "PROVE"

THESE NATIONS were going to REMAIN because God wants Israel to PROVE faithfulness to Him -

LOOK – it says "THE ISRAELITES WHO HAD NOT EXPERIENCED WARS"
THIS NEW generation

CAUSE it is easy to worship GOD when it is easy...but when it comes to battle.. When it comes to hardship and a call to PUSH OUT – all of a sudden, for some reason, OUR FAITH is tested because we find out what we ACTUALLY rely on...

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

LET IT GROW – so you will be FULLY DEVELOPED in your endurance which makes you WALK in a POSTURE of PERFECTION and COMPLETENESS needing nothing..

IT IS NOT that you are earning perfection and completeness

YOU GOT THAT in your identity...now this is the testing to develop the thing that is you.... GREAT MUSICIANS don't start off great – but God always saw them as great...but WALKING IN TO GREATNESS depended on DEVELOPMENT

HE ALLOWS trials and wants you to learn how to WAR to PROVE an obedience so that YOUR FAITH is tested to GROW endurance producing the COMPLETE and PERFECT you.

THE ISRAELITS had NO EXPERIENCE with BATTLE...

God wants WARRIORS...VERSE 2: He did this to teach warfare to generations

WHY DOES GOD WANT WARRIORS

Cause the TIME HAS NOT YET COME to COMPLETELY restore the earth by throwing SATAN in a pit and FULLY redeeming mankind

AND UNTIL THAT HAPPENS – there is a people that GOD NEEDS to war for HIM to OCCUPY the land and REDEEM whatever we can

THAT IS HOW GREAT His love is!

AND WE THINK – well why would God take His hand off His people???

Proverbs 3:11-12 (NLT)

11 My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. 12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

SOMETIMES correction looks like – Im gonna take my hand off until you recognize
YOU CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT ME

Judges 3:3-4 (NLT)

3 These are the nations: the Philistines (those living under the five Philistine rulers), all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the mountains of Lebanon from Mount Baal-hermon to Lebo-hamath. 4 These people were left to test the Israelites—to see whether they would obey the commands the Lord had given to their ancestors through Moses.

SO we are given a LIST of the pagan people who stayed in the land that GOD'S PEOPLE DID NOT DRIVE OUT – a list of PAGAN TERRITORY in a LAND that should be fully occupied by the people of GOD

I THINK IN THE SAME WAY – we could all make a list of PAGAN TERRITORY in our lives – **WELL WHY WOULD I DO THAT? God sees me as perfect...**

YES HE DOES – BUT HE ALSO knows the more you allow your territory to be given to the enemy – the MORE YOU WILL BE HELD BACK from walking in to your purpose

BECAUSE SOME DESTINATIONS... you will never arrive until certain things are removed – and HE LOVES YOU WAY TOO MUCH to allow you to NEVER ARRIVE...

THE MOST FREEING thing could be identifying – WHAT STUFF HAVE I LEFT IN...and GOD didn't remove them at the place of your REBIRTH – so that your obedience would be proven to make you walk in PERFECTION and COMPLETENESS

WHATEVER YOU STRUGGLE WITH – it was never the plan to be a part of you
IT WAS LEFT TO TEST YOU in OBEDIENCE....

SO LET'S SEE WHAT THEY DO WITH THE TEST....

Judges 3:5-7 (NLT)

5 So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, 6 and they intermarried with them. Israelite sons married their daughters, and Israelite daughters were given in marriage to their sons. And the Israelites served their gods. 7 The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. They forgot about the Lord their God, and they served the images of Baal and the Asherah poles.

UNGODLY ROMANCES led them to a MIXTURE of pagan culture and pagan worship and they left their GOD....says they FORGOT about him

It wasn't even a conscience CONVERSION – they FORGOT ABOUT HIM

CAUSE WHEN YOU INTERMARRY and INTERMINGLE with things God has called you to drive out – you start to give worship to things that are not of God and without even realizing it – you walk OUT of relationship with HIM and in to IDOL worship with other things....

AND WE LOVE TO JUSTIFY – btu we INTERMARRY way too much and we have FORGETTEN our CALL of a LIFE of sacrifice

Mark 10:17-25 (NLT)

17 As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. 19 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." 21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. 23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" 24 This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

YOU CAN NOT DO ANYTHING TO EARN IT

So Jesus purchased the right...

BUT TO ENTER IN THE KINGDOM – to walk in to your purpose

HE REQUIRED a willingness to GIVE IT ALL UP – and whatever you keep – will HINDER you in walking forward in ALL of the divine promises He has planned for you and has in store for you

ESSENTIALLY – the rich man worshipped his possessions more than GOD – why – God wasn't enough for HIM to leave his stuff

SO WHATEVER YOU CANT GIVE UP – you love that more...and it is your intermingling -it is your ungodly romance

Judges 3:8 (NLT)

8 Then the Lord burned with anger against Israel, and he turned them over to King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram-naharaim. And the Israelites served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years.

SO GOD gave Israel JUST WHAT THEY WANTED –

Yall don't want to serve me – Go ahead and walk in to bondage...

Exodus 34:14 (NLT)

14 You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

HIS VERY NAME is jealous – HE WANTS IT ALL

So He says – fine, you don't want the peace that is me, have it your way

THEY LIVED in 8 years of BONDAGE....

Under a CORRUPT KING – Cushan-rishathaim – MEANING – DOUBLE WICKEDNESS – and ARM-NAHARAIM was MESOPOTAMIA

MESOPOTAMIA was a FERTILE, WELL-WATERED LAND....

THEY LIVED in 8 years of BONDAGE in a FERITLE, PRODUCING LAND

AND MANY OF US ACTUALLY live in the MOST PRODUTIVE place, but we are under bondage and you don't even recognize your position cause all you do is focus on your BONDAGE and instead of REMOVING the UNGODLY ROMANCE – you dive deeper in the ROMANCE hoping to escape the bondage...

Judges 3:9-11 (NLT)

9 But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, the Lord raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Othniel, the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz. 10 The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he became Israel's judge. He went to war against King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram, and the Lord gave Othniel victory over him. 11 So there was peace in the land for forty years. Then Othniel son of Kenaz died.

AFTER 8 years of BONDAGE – they had enough and FINALLY called out for GOD'S HELP...cause in UNGODLY ROMANCES – they feel great for a while, but eventually the BONDAGE of your life makes you realize that SOMETHING is wrong, and YOU NEED something more – and the ONLY thing that you actually need is GOD....

AT WHAT POINT are we going to look away from our self...

AT WHAT POINT are we going to divorce the ungodly romance...

And say – GOD – I NEED YOU, and you can have whatever you want

AND THE FIRST JUDGE is called up – OTHNIEL...

NOW – Othniel – was the one who won a battle to get ACSAH – Caleb's daughter

And OTHNIEL went to WAR and GOD GAVE HIM VICTORY....

Had God not ALLOWED the enemy to stay for TESTING AND PROVING OTHNIEL would not have been ready for WARRING...

REMEMBER from earlier? God needs us ready for war...God needs warriors cause there will be times where we are called to FIGHT BATTLES and REDEEM the land and REDEEM the culture....

Now we are not told MUCH about OTHNIEL...but we do know that : **The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he became Israel's judge.**

Zechariah 4:6 (NLT)

6 Then he said to me, "This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

GOD CHOSE OTHNIEL as the one to raise up and REDEEM The culture....through a fight

And at some point – GOD is going to need a CHURCH he can raise up to REDEEM the KINGLESS KINGDOMS of this world...

BUT HOW DID GOD CHOOSE HIM – the SPIRIT overcame him

HE WAS obviously at least a SEEKER ready for the SPIRIT to move in and through HIM

ARE YOU READY for GOD to redeem things through the vessel that is you...

Or are you still part of the kingless kingdom that God wants to redeem....

AND BECAUSE he was READY – the LORD gave OTHNIEL VICTORY over the OPPRESSOR – the KING of DOUBLE WICKEDNESS...

And the people lived in peace for 40 years....

1 John 5:4 (NLT)

4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

YOUR VERY DNA as a reborn child of GOD – is a warrior who always wins..

And you WIN through FAITH in HIM

In what He calls you to, in where He calls you to..

BUT WHEN YOU ARE INTERMINGLED WITH UNGODLY ROMANCE

It is hard to hear the call or see the place or thing you are called to do...

AND YOU FORGET HIM....

YOU ARE CALLED TO BE THE ONE GOD USES to redeem the KINGLESS KINGDOMS.....so GET RID of the stuff that is blocking your ability to see and hear...

And it could be the MOST SEEMINGLY INNOCENT things...but they are taking up your time and your thought life and you depend on them more than HIM

THE HOLY SPIRIT NOW DWELLS IN US...and earlier we asked a question...

WHY DOES GOD WANT WARRIORS????

Cause the TIME HAS NOT YET COME to COMPLETELY restore the earth by throwing SATAN in a pit and FULLY redeeming mankind

WATCH THIS...

Acts 1:6-8 (TPT)

6 Every time they were gathered together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is it the time now for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" 7 He answered, "The Father is the one who sets the fixed dates and the times of their fulfillment. You are not permitted to know the timing of all that he has prepared by his own authority. 8 But I promise you this—the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be filled with power. And you will be my messengers to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—even to the remotest places on earth!"

WE are not allowed to know....all we DO need to know is this..

UNTIL IT IS TIME – you need to be READY TO WAR...

And the HOLY SPIRIT will COME UPON YOU and you will be FILLED with power in order to REDEEM the culture by the BLOOD of JESUS

THE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE – Holy Spirit doesn't just come and go, He DWELLS IN US – but we are the ones who are either TAPPED IN or ignore HIM

And when we IGNORE – we FORGET – and all of a sudden we become a body who IGNORES the relationship with GOD for the relationship with UNGODLY ROMANCES and when IT IS TIME TO WAR – we aren't prepared and we retreat rather than move forward....

BUT I DECREE – we are BODY that WILL BE KNOWN as WARRIORS for the KINGDOM OF GOD, pushing through strongholds and principalities ready to REDEEM the culture for the GLORY of God!

AND THE PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE FOR 40 years....but Othniel dies, they depended SOLELY on this leader, they didn't develop relationship on their own DESPITE his example..and as soon as he dies – as soon as the leader is gone – THEY GO RIGHT BACK IN TO THEIR OLD WAYS....

Judges 3:12-14 (NLT)

12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight, and the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil. 13 Eglon enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites as allies, and then he went out and defeated Israel, taking possession of Jericho, the city of palms. 14 And the Israelites served Eglon of Moab for eighteen years.

THEY SUFFERED 8 years of bondage 40 years ago...

And NOW they are enduring 18 years of bondage....

SIN ALWAYS BRINGS BONDAGE...but the temptation of sin will never present itself as bondage...and we fall in to COMPROMISE and MAKE ALLIES with UNCLEAN things because it feels good, it gives us a relief from current condition and we put MORE FAITH in an AUTOMATIC relief than enduring a few more moments of the pain while PRESSING through in the SPIRIT until it breaks.....

And because we don't turn to God – we keep making allies with automatic relief that sin brings – and 18 years later – YOU ARE STUCK in a place you don't know how to get out of, and quite frankly, you dot even know how you got there....

BUT GOD IS SO SO GOOD....

Ezekiel 34:11-16 (NLT)

11 "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. 12 I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. 13 I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. 14 Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. 16 I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!

God says – I WILL FIND YOU I WILL RESCUE YOU
I WILL BRING YOU HOME – from the people and cultures you have
intermingled with
I WILL FEED YOU and GIVE YOU LAND TO STEWARD
I WILL TEND TO YOU and GIVE YOU REST
I WILL BANDAGE YOU UP, STRENGTHEN YOU,,,,,

WHY DO ALL THIS – to make us ready....

HE HAS SO MUCH purpose for you...

HE HAS SO MUCH to do THROUGH YOU

HE WANTS TO REDEEM YOU and REDEEM SO MUCH THROUGH YOU

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

PLANS FOR GOOD

PLANS OF A FUTURE

PLANS OF HOPE

AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO ...

CRY OUT TO HIM....SEEK HIM AGAIN....

SEEK HIM and HE WILL MAKE YOU READY

CAUSE HIS SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU

And strengthen you at the times when you'll need it

For the conversations you are not ready for

For the deliverance prayers you aren't ready for

FOR ALL THE THINGS he wants to do THROUGH YOU

TO re-establish HIS KINGDOM – among KINGLESS kingdoms...

AMEN