

WHO SHALL GO UP FOR US

JUDGES 1

Text: Judges 1:1

(Judges 1:1) "Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?"

Introduction:

There are many people who believe in getting a good start on the day by having a good breakfast. There are also many of us Christians who believe in the importance of a good start to our day by spending time in the Word and prayer. Many like to get a good start on school or work projects. Christian parents should want to get a good start on training their children in the things of God (Proverbs 22:6).

(Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

In chapter 1 of Judges the Children of Israel did get a good start in serving the Lord after Joshua died. Unfortunately, they did not continue in their walk with the Lord. We can still learn from their good start, and copy their good example.

1. THEY ASKED GOD (VS. 1)

(Judges 1:1) "Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?"

It was Israel's responsibility to conquer the promised land. They asked God for guidance. It is our responsibility to be good soldiers for Christ. We should ask for guidance. (See James 1:5-8)

(James 1:5-8) "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. {6} But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. {7} For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. {8} A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

2. THEY BELIEVED GOD (VSS. 2-3)

(Judges 1:2-3) "And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. {3} And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him."

God said that the Tribe of Judah should go first. They believed what God told them, and acted!

3. THEY OBEYED GOD (VSS. 4-8)

(Judges 1:4-8) "And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men. {5} And they found Adonibezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites. {6} But Adonibezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes. {7} And Adonibezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died. {8} Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire."

They simply did what God told them to do. There is no substitute for obedience (See 1 Samuel 15:22-23)

(1 Samuel 15:22-23) "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. {23} For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou

hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

4. THEY DISPLAYED COURAGE (VSS. 9-15)

(Judges 1:9-15) "And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley. {10} And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi. {11} And from thence he went against the inhabitants of Debir: and the name of Debir before was Kirjathsepher: {12} And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. {13} And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. {14} And it came to pass, when she came to him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted from off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou? {15} And she said unto him, Give me a blessing: for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the nether springs."

Othniel is an example of the courage displayed by the Tribe of Judah. It will take courage to obey God! (See Joshua 1:9)

(Joshua 1:9) "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."