

# Avoiding the Cycle of Defeat

## Joshua's Outro of Victory

### Joshua 24:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods.*

<sup>17</sup> *For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, He preserved us.*

### Judges 2:6-7

*After Joshua sent the people away, each of the tribes left to take possession of the land allotted to them. And the Israelites served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel....*

Joshua ends with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## Judges' intro of defeat—Judges 2:10-12, 14-19

<sup>10</sup> *After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight and served the images of Baal. <sup>12</sup> They abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the Lord....*

*... so he handed them over to raiders who stole their possessions. He turned them over to their enemies all around, and they were no longer able to resist them. <sup>15</sup> Every time Israel went out to battle, the Lord fought against them, causing them to be defeated, just as He had warned. And the people were in great distress. <sup>16</sup> Then the Lord raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers. <sup>17</sup> Yet Israel did not listen to the judges but prostituted themselves by worshiping other gods. How quickly they turned away from the path of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the Lord's commands.*

<sup>18</sup> *Whenever the Lord raised up a judge over Israel, He was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the Lord took pity on His people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. <sup>19</sup> But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.*

The Book of Judges =The Cycle of \_\_\_\_\_—>

1) Israel's rebellion from God; 2) God's chastisement; 3) Israel's prayer pleading for deliverance; and 4) God raising up "judges," who led in shaking off the oppressors

## Why did they (do we) go from Victory to Defeat?

- > Stop acknowledging God as Lord v. 10
- > Forget what God has done v. 10
- > Do what we know is wrong v. 11
- > Serve other gods v. 11
- > Abandon God altogether v. 12

## All these things lead to defeat in our lives...

Sin = Defeat \_\_\_\_\_!

Hebrews 12:1-3

*...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.[a] Because of the joy[b] awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people;[c] then you won't become weary and give up.*

## We live in a World of Sin and defeat....As believers we are called to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ sin v. 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ the race v. 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus v. 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ His suffering v. 3

Jesus endured hardship victoriously and so can we!!!

**Where are you going to fix your eyes?  
On sin and defeat or on Jesus and Victory!**

### **Financial Update**

Total Weekly Budget

**\$ 12,857.00**

Weekly Offering

Received

January 22, 2017

**\$ 6,024.68**

### **ANSWERS:**

Victory, Commitment, Defeat, Christ = Victory,  
Throw off, Endure, Focus, Remember