

# ISRAEL FAILS TO CONQUER

**Scripture:**  
Joshua 13-24, Judges 1:1-2:13

**Materials Needed:**  
Pictures

**Memory Verse:** be.

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that although the Israelites were supposed to conquer and occupy all the land after the Joshua-led conquest, they still had not conquered many cities at Joshua's farewell address 20 years later, and although they followed God during Joshua's day, their children quickly intermarried and turned to Baal when Joshua's generation died.

To Realize: When the people of God stop their God-given task for whatever reason, they begin the process of assimilation, which will negatively affect not only themselves, but especially future generations.

To Respond: by renewing their commitment to loving God and fulfilling their purpose in order to stop the process of assimilation.

## Setting Up the Story—

Have you ever felt you were born at a terrible time in history? To introduce ourselves this morning, give your name and answer the question: "If you could have been born at any time in history, when would you choose?"

Normally, people don't pick the time of the Judges as a time they would want to live during. But I thought it would be helpful if we put Judges into its context of where it falls in the Biblical history.

God promised to make Abraham a great \_\_\_\_\_. (nation) You need four basic things to have a nation: people, leader, law and land.

Exodus 1—we have people. Moses—we have a leader. Mt. Sinai—we have a law. What was left? "land"

Moses died and Joshua inherited the job. At this point, what was the Israelites purpose in history? (Num. 33:50-56) Especially v. 53

## Telling the Story—

Scripture: I. Israelites Told to Conquer All the Land  
A. Numbers 33:50-56  
B. Joshua's Campaign  
1. Central  
2. Southern  
3. Northern

## As you tell the story—

Read aloud.  
Joshua was a great military leader and this was his task. I found it very helpful as I was studying this to use modern dates to get more of a handle on approximately when things happened.

II. Israelites Do not Conquer or Occupy all the Cities

Scripture:

- A. Allot 9-1/2 tribes
  - 1. Judah begins
  - 2. Ephraim and Manasseh begin
- B. Joshua Rebukes 7 tribes and draw lots
  
- C. Joshua's Farewell Address
  - 1. God will continue
  - 2. Countries left + ones I conquered
  
- B. Cities left in tribes unconquered
  - 1. because of chariots
  - 2. some repossessed by Canaanites: they waited too long
  - 3. Israel had 'inferior' way of doing things
    - a. crops dependent on rain not like Egypt
    - b. building techniques made hill country

Assume Joshua has just given his final address and has died: (fill in current year) He's 110 years old. What year would they have come into Jericho? (34 yrs. prior)

Red Sea?

Conquest finished? (22 yrs. prior)

Isn't this great?! Joshua secured the land—no more kings joined together to come against him...

But there are still peoples to conquer.

Josh. 13:1, 7

There were 2 super-power tribes that got to work.

Now what are they supposed to do?

The other seven tribes get "stuck"

Josh. 18:2-3—they draw lots.

At Joshua's farewell address, how have they done?

Josh. 23:4,5, 12-13

What had happened over those last 18-20 years? What had happened to their purpose?

What's interesting is that Joshua ends with a challenge—make up your mind whom you will serve.

- a. gods of fathers
- b. gods of Amorites
- c. Yaweh

And they said, "C. Yaweh."

BUT they left the cities unconquered.

Judges 1:19ff gives a list.

These cities are along flat areas.

What was hard about conquering flat areas?

Josh. 17:14-18

- liveable
- B. Cities left in tribes  
unpossessed
1. Easier to settle  
together? Where were  
'pioneers'?
  2. Because of where  
Canaanites were settled.

Scripture:

III. Israelites Follow God but  
Their Children Intermarry

This generation of men/women did  
serve the Lord, but how long would  
they be around? Eleazar was 85,  
Phineas was 65, Caleb 103?

**Concluding the story:**

This generation's problem was not they they turned to idols. Their problem was that they stopped pursuing their purpose. The result is in Judges 2:10. This is us? Our children? There was plenty of opportunity for this generation to know God experientially.

What is our God-given purpose in history? Have you stopped pursuing it? What are you doing to actively pursue it and to make sure the next generation is pursuing it?

Let's pray.