

JUDAH TAKES THE LEAD

Judges 1:1-20

Amid a leadership void, the kingly Judah is chosen to lead the charge into Canaan.

I. This *faithful* tribe *conquers* the serpent.

II. This *flawed* tribe *capitulates* to the serpent.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How does the introduction to Judges teach us that leaders are dispensable and leadership is indispensable? Why is it important for us to learn both of these lessons?
2. Who did the Lord choose to lead Israel in the conquest after Joshua's death? Why?
3. Many people claim that Israel's conquest of Canaan was evil, often likening it to genocide? Why was it not? How was it actually a sign of God's goodness?
4. What are some encouraging signs in the account of Judah's military campaigns at the beginning of Judges, and what lessons can we draw from them?
5. What are some discouraging signs in this account, and what lessons can we draw from them?
6. How does this emphasis on Judah at the beginning of Judges serve the broader message in Judges of Israel's need for a godly king to lead her? How does this ultimately point to Jesus Christ?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why are God's people often tempted to idolize their leaders, and how does death set them straight?
2. What is the main message of the book of Judges, and what role does Judah play in it?
3. How is the faithful-yet-flawed leadership of Judah and Caleb indicative of every godly leader, and how does it encourage me to boast in Christ alone?