

IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE
Judges 1:21-2:5 // August 9, 2026 PM

A faithful start is no guarantee of a faithful finish.

I. God's seed *tolerates* the serpent's seed (1:21-30).

II. The serpent's seed *dominates* God's seed (1:31-2:5).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How did the conquest of Canaan begin under Joshua? Is a good start a guarantee of a good finish? Why, or why not?
2. Read Exodus 23:31-33. How does this help us understand what is happening in the second half of Judges 1?
3. When the tribes of Joseph make a pact with a Canaanite in vv. 22-26 are they doing a commendable, wise, and God-honoring thing? How do we know?
4. How does the relationship of the Israelites to the Canaanites get progressively worse as the chapter unfolds? What does this teach us about the nature of spiritual compromise?
5. Who is the angel of the Lord? What is His message to Israel?
6. How does Israel respond to the message from God? Is this a sign that Israel is truly repentant?
7. How does part one of the prologue to Judges point us to Jesus and call us to trust and obey Him?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Can I think of examples of Christians who started well but didn't end well?
2. Why is strength and self-confidence so dangerous? How did it lead to Israel's downfall, and how can it lead to mine?
3. What lessons can I draw from Judges 1 to keep me from finishing poorly as I run the race of faith?