

## Judges #3

### Three Steps to Israel's Tragic Decline *They Abandoned God*

Three steps to Israel's tragic decline:

They didn't listen to God

They abandoned God

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Joshua 24:14-18 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods!

<sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

#### **Judges 2:11-14 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

<sup>12</sup> They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger

<sup>13</sup> because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

<sup>14</sup> In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

**Maximum freedom is found under God's authority,  
not doing what you want.**

## What we need to know about ourselves:

1. We are a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
2. If God is not our \_\_\_\_\_, then we are \_\_\_\_\_ by something else.

Appetite	Lust
Insecurity	Greed
Fear	Consumption
Comparison	History

## What we need to know about gods:

3. Pagan gods do nothing more than \_\_\_\_\_ people's \_\_\_\_\_ lords.

Baal: life (sun/storm) and fertility

Ashtoreth: goddess of beauty;

Asherah: happy and upright

Zeus: sun/storm

Artemis: fertility

Aphrodite: goddess of love, sex, beauty

Athena: goddess of reason, wisdom

Dionysus: god of wine and orgies

Apollo: sun, poetry, music

Aurora: goddess of Dawn

Bacchus: god of wine

Bellona: goddess of war

Ceres: goddess of agriculture

4. Pagan gods are \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 10:20** (NIV) No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

5. The strategy of pagan gods was to buy-in to \_\_\_\_\_ lords, because they are extremely \_\_\_\_\_, destructive, \_\_\_\_\_ and binding.

## What we need to know about God:

6. \_\_\_\_\_ God and He will set you \_\_\_\_\_ from the lords that want to \_\_\_\_\_ you.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ God and He will \_\_\_\_\_ to the lords that want to master you. **Judges 2:14, 3:8, 4:2, 10:7, 13:1; Romans 1:21-32.**
8. Expressing our \_\_\_\_\_ away from God isn't \_\_\_\_\_, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

