

What to Remember in a New Beginning

Judges 1-2:5

This passage provides three truths that will help believers navigate new beginnings successfully.

- **Truth #1: GOD HIMSELF IS ADEQUATE FOR YOUR NEW BEGINNING.**

After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the LORD, “Who will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites?”² The LORD answered, “Judah is to go; I have given the land into their hands.”³ Then the men of Judah said to the Simeonites their brothers, “Come up with us into the territory allotted to us, to fight against the Canaanites. We in turn will go with you into yours.” So the Simeonites went with them. ⁴When Judah attacked, the LORD gave the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands and they struck down ten thousand men at Bezek. Judges 1:1-4 (New International Version)

A Picture of Divine Adequacy

- Divine direction: “Judah is to go . . .”
- Divine assurance: “I have given the land into their hands.”
- Divine power: “The Lord gave the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands.”

David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David . . .¹⁰ And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him. 2 Samuel 5:9-10 (NIV)

It’s also important to operate in unity with God’s people in your new beginning. Then the men of Judah said to the Simeonites their brothers, “Come up with us into the territory allotted to us, to fight against the Canaanites. We in turn will go with you into yours.” . . . Judges 1:3 (NIV)

Then the men of Judah went with the Simeonites their brothers and attacked the Canaanites living in Zephath, and they totally destroyed the city. Judges 1:17 (NIV)

(See Romans 12:10; 13:8; Galatians 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

- **Truth #2: “MINOR” DISOBEDIENCE IS DANGEROUS IN ANY TRANSITION OR NEW BEGINNING.**

But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land. ²⁸When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely. ²⁹Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, but the Canaanites continued to live there among them. ³⁰Neither did Zebulun drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron or Nahalol, who remained among them; but they did subject them to forced labor. Judges 1:27-30 (NIV)

Do not make any agreement with them or with their gods. ³³Do not let those people live in your country; if you do, they will make you sin against me. If you worship their gods, it will be a fatal trap for you. Exodus 23:32-33 (Good News Translation)

Related Principles

Jesus said, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10 (NIV)

. . . Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? . . . ¹¹But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral . . . 1 Corinthians 5:6, 11a (NIV)

Watch your life and doctrine closely . . . 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

- **TRUTH #3: IF YOU GET OFF TRACK IN YOUR NEW BEGINNING, RESPOND TO GOD WITH GENUINE REPENTANCE.**

The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, ²and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? ³Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.” ⁴When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, ⁵and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the LORD. Judges 2:1-5 (NIV)

. . . “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Hebrews 12:5, 6 (NIV)

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” ¹³Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Joel 2:12-13 (NIV)