

**Tuesday, April 23**

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**Judges 1:1 - 2:9**

**1** After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the LORD, "Which tribe should go first to attack the Canaanites?" **2** The LORD answered, "Judah, for I have given them victory over the land." **3** The men of Judah said to their relatives from the tribe of Simeon, "Join with us to fight against the Canaanites living in the territory allotted to us. Then we will help you conquer your territory." So the men of Simeon went with Judah. **4** When the men of Judah attacked, the LORD gave them victory over the Canaanites and Perizzites, and they killed 10,000 enemy warriors at the town of Bezek. **5** While at Bezek they encountered King Adoni-bezek and fought against him, and the Canaanites and Perizzites were defeated. **6** Adoni-bezek escaped, but the Israelites soon captured him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. **7** Adoni-bezek said, "I once had seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off, eating scraps from under my table. Now God has paid me back for what I did to them." They took him to Jerusalem, and he died there. **8** The men of Judah attacked Jerusalem and captured it, killing all its people and setting the city on fire. **9** Then they went down to fight the Canaanites living in the hill country, the Negev, and the western foothills. **10** Judah marched against the Canaanites in Hebron (formerly called Kiriath-arba), defeating the forces of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. **11** From there they went to fight against the people living in the town of Debir (formerly called Kiriath-sepher). **12** Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the one who attacks and captures Kiriath-sepher." **13** Othniel, the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz, was the one who conquered it, so Acsah became Othniel's wife. **14** When Acsah married Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. As she got down off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What's the matter?" **15** She said, "Let me have another gift. You have already given me land in the Negev; now please give me springs of water, too." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. **16** When the tribe of Judah left Jericho—the city of palms—the Kenites, who were descendants of Moses' father-in-law, traveled with them into the wilderness of Judah. They settled among the people there, near the town of Arad in the Negev. **17** Then Judah joined with Simeon to fight against the Canaanites living in Zephath, and they completely destroyed the town. So the town was named Hormah. **18** In addition, Judah captured the towns of Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron, along with their surrounding territories. **19** The LORD was with the people of Judah, and they took possession of the hill country. But they failed to drive out the people living in the plains, who had iron chariots. **20** The town of Hebron was given to Caleb as Moses

had promised. And Caleb drove out the people living there, who were descendants of the three sons of Anak. **21** The tribe of Benjamin, however, failed to drive out the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem. So to this day the Jebusites live in Jerusalem among the people of Benjamin. **22** The descendants of Joseph attacked the town of Bethel, and the LORD was with them. **23** They sent men to scout out Bethel (formerly known as Luz). **24** They confronted a man coming out of the town and said to him, "Show us a way into the town, and we will have mercy on you." **25** So he showed them a way in, and they killed everyone in the town except that man and his family. **26** Later the man moved to the land of the Hittites, where he built a town. He named it Luz, which is its name to this day. **27** The tribe of Manasseh failed to drive out the people living in Beth-shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo, and all their surrounding settlements, because the Canaanites were determined to stay in that region. **28** When the Israelites grew stronger, they forced the Canaanites to work as slaves, but they never did drive them completely out of the land. **29** The tribe of Ephraim failed to drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, so the Canaanites continued to live there among them. **30** The tribe of Zebulun failed to drive out the residents of Kitron and Nahalol, so the Canaanites continued to live among them. But the Canaanites were forced to work as slaves for the people of Zebulun. **31** The tribe of Asher failed to drive out the residents of Acco, Sidon, Ahlab, Aczib, Helbah, Aphik, and Rehob. **32** Instead, the people of Asher moved in among the Canaanites, who controlled the land, for they failed to drive them out. **33** Likewise, the tribe of Naphtali failed to drive out the residents of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath. Instead, they moved in among the Canaanites, who controlled the land. Nevertheless, the people of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath were forced to work as slaves for the people of Naphtali. **34** As for the tribe of Dan, the Amorites forced them back into the hill country and would not let them come down into the plains. **35** The Amorites were determined to stay in Mount Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim, but when the descendants of Joseph became stronger, they forced the Amorites to work as slaves. **36** The boundary of the Amorites ran from Scorpion Pass to Sela and continued upward from there.

**2 1** The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said to the Israelites, "I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you. **2** For your part, you were not to make any covenants with the people living in this land; instead, you were to destroy their altars. But you disobeyed my command. Why did you do this? **3** So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a constant temptation to you." **4** When the angel of the LORD finished speaking to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly. **5** So they called the place Bokim (which means "weeping"), and they offered sacrifices there to the LORD. **6** After Joshua sent the people away, each of the tribes left to take

possession of the land allotted to them. **7** And the Israelites served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel. **8** Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110. **9** They buried him in the land he had been allocated, at Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

## **Luke 21:29 - 22:13**

**21 29** Then he gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. **30** When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. **31** In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near. **32** I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. **34** “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, **35** like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. **36** Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.” **37** Every day Jesus went to the Temple to teach, and each evening he returned to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. **38** The crowds gathered at the Temple early each morning to hear him.

**22 1** The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. **2** The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people’s reaction. **3** Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, **4** and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. **5** They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. **6** So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren’t around. **7** Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. **8** Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.” **9** “Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him. **10** He replied, “As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, **11** say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ **12** He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our

meal.” **13** They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

### **Psalms 90:1 - 91:16**

**90** **1** Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! **2** Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. **3** You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals!” **4** For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours. **5** You sweep people away like dreams that disappear. They are like grass that springs up in the morning. **6** In the morning it blooms and flourishes, but by evening it is dry and withered. **7** We wither beneath your anger; we are overwhelmed by your fury. **8** You spread out our sins before you— our secret sins—and you see them all. **9** We live our lives beneath your wrath, ending our years with a groan. **10** Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away. **11** Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve. **12** Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. **13** O LORD, come back to us! How long will you delay? Take pity on your servants! **14** Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. **15** Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good. **16** Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory. **17** And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!

**91** **1** Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. **2** This I declare about the LORD : He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. **3** For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. **4** He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. **5** Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. **6** Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. **7** Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. **8** Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. **9** If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, **10** no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. **11** For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. **12** They will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone. **13** You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and

serpents under your feet! **14** The LORD says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. **15** When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. **16** I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.”

#### **Proverbs 13:24 - 25**

**13 24** Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. **25** The godly eat to their hearts' content, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.