

The Story, chapter 8 (Judges)

Under Joshua, the Israelites entered the promised land and conquered it... mostly.

The Lord was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had chariots fitted with iron.
(Jdg 1:19)

After Joshua's death the people broke their promise to serve only God.

The angel of the LORD ... [said], "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, ² and 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? ³ And I have also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.'" (Jdg 2:1-3)

¹⁵ Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

¹⁶ Then the Lord raised up judges, ^[a] who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.
(Jdg 2:15-16)

¹⁸ Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. ¹⁹ But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. (Jdg 2:18-19)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (Jdg 21:25)