

## March 31 Answers

- 1) If the main theme of the book of Joshua is “Victory through **Faith**,” the main theme of Judges is “Failure through **Compromise**.” After Joshua’s **death**, **Judah** launched a campaign to take possession of their territory. Joined by Simeon, they conquered the uplands and lowlands, and **Caleb** was victorious at Hebron. This successful start, however, was soon marred by disobedience, for they did not drive out **all** the Canaanites from the land. The other tribes also failed to obey God’s command, and God finally **confronted** them at Bochim: “You have not obeyed my voice” (Judges 2:2). Israel’s failure bore all the hallmarks of a compromising heart: (1) They were more afraid of **people** than they were of God (Judges 1:19); (2) They **justified** their actions instead of owning up to their mistakes (Judges 1:19); (3) They gave up when they encountered **resistance** (Judges 1:34); and (4) They preferred to **cohabit** rather than conquer (Judges 1:21, 28, 30). This teaches us that when we refuse to be ruthless with sin, it will come back to be a **thorn** in our side and a **snare** to our feet (Judges 2:3). The people **wept** at Bochim, but like Esau, they were only sorry for the **consequences** of their sin. Their repentance wasn’t **genuine**, for they soon abandoned God and worshiped idols (cf. Judges 17:5). First a **family**, then a **Levite**, and finally a **tribe** left the path of righteousness and did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6). This led them into a quagmire of religious **syncretism** and moral **relativism**, and it teaches us the danger of compromising with sin.