

# Elder Vernon Johson

## Numbers

### National Judgment of Israel Because of Sin and Repentance

During the days of Joshua, the children of Israel were blessed of God to go in and possess the land of Canaan. They drove out most of the former inhabitants of the land through the delivering hand of God. However, God left some of the inhabitants of the land in order to prove Israel, whether they would keep the commandments of God: Judges 3:1 "Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; 2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; 3 Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. 4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses."

It was not long until the children of Israel left off following the Lord and keeping his commandments: Judges 3:5 "And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: 6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. 7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. 8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years."

While in bondage, the children of Israel cried out and the Lord sent a deliverer who then judged Israel for forty years: Judges 3:9 "And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. 11 And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died."

We see this pattern repeating itself repeatedly throughout the Old Testament history of Israel. The Lord would deliver the children of Israel, then they would do evil and the Lord would deliver them into bondage of another people. After Israel had been in bondage for several years, they would cry out unto the Lord and he would send another deliverer. Then the children of Israel would keep the commandments of God for a period of time. Then they would do evil again, etc. Other examples are set forth in the following passages:

1. Judg 5:31 "So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years."

2. Judg 8:28 "Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon."

3. Judg 13:1 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years."

This trial and judgment of national Israel in the Old Testament should be a warning to all nations: Psa 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." In addition, we are told that the Lord rules the nations with a rod of iron:

1. Rev 2:27 "And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

2. Rev 12:5 "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

3. Rev 19:15 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

My fear is that the United States has forgotten God as evidenced by her actions and shall be turned into hell as the Lord rules her with a rod of iron.