**STEPS IN THE DOWNFALL OF ISRAEL**

**Judges 3:5 – 8**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. In these verses, [we] find five steps leading to the downfall of Israel and God’s Anger.

2. [We] hope to benefit being able to recognize ways [we] might avoid the same steps.

 1. For as physical Israel fell, so likewise might Spiritual Israel.

**BODY:**

**1. DWELT AMONG THE HEATHEN (JUD 3:5)**

 A. Has been the cause of numerous problems to God's People in the past and present.

 1. Also, doing the same for those in the future.

 B. Failing to carefully choose our companions, the same situation awaits us (1 Cor 15:33).

**2. INTERMARRIED WITH GOD'S ENEMIES (JUD 3:6)**

 A. From the very beginning of earth time, [we] see the vast number of problems arose as the

 children of God married the children of Satan.

 B. This area is a tender area, BUT none the less it must be considered by Christians.

 1. I have been told “love is blind”. **BUT,** also “Marriage is an eye opener”.

 C. Have heard arguments for the Scriptural Legality of mixed marriages, **BUT** **NO** issue(s).

 1. Perhaps [we] should give more attention to its edification (1 Cor 6:12; 10:23).

 D. A child of God ought to do all due diligence to marry another child of God.

 1. **NO** doubt, in every case, the mixed marriage will **NOT** fail.

 2. One can**NOT** marry children of the devil without problems with their father-in-law.

**3. FAILED TO DRIVE OUT THE IDOLATERS (JUD 3:7)**

 A. Even though God made and renewed a covenant with Israel, they failed to drive out the

 idolatrous nations about [within] them.

 B. In failing to do so, they broke one of the commandments they were to keep if they wished

 for this covenant to remain intact (Deu 5:8, 9).

 C. In consideration of this, one would have thought such a promise (the land promise),

 would have stirred the ambition of the nation to obey God no matter what He Said.

1. One tribe then another neglect to drive out the idolatrous races (Jud 2:10, 11).

 D. Seeking to benefit, many Christians might fall under these words (Jud 3:10, 11).

 1. Some form of idolatry is taking over the Lord's church.

 2. Many are falling by the wayside worshipping the doctrines of men rather than God.

**4. FORGOT HER OWN GOD (JUD 3:7)**

 A. Israel had forgotten how God had delivered her out of the land of Egypt and captivity.

 B. Man has forgotten how God delivered him out of the bondage of sin (2 Pet 1:9).

 1. There is **NO** room in the heart for two thrones.

 A. If Satan is enthroned, then there is **NO** room for Christ.

 B. If Christ is enthroned, then there is **NO** room for Satan (Mt 6:24).

 C. Being delivered out of slavery to sin, dare we turn back? (Rom 6:16-23; 2 Pet 2:20-22).

**5. SERVED HEATHEN GODS (JUD 3:7B)**

 A. Instead of raising the knowledge of the heathen nations about God, Israel lowered itself.

 B. Today, instead of the church raising the knowledge of the nations, it is compromising.

 1. Because of this, it is destined to fall alongside of physical Israel.

 C. Today, [we] have brethren who see **NO** problem with abortion and/or homosexuality.

 1. Worldliness is on the rise in conflict with God Words (1 Jn 2:15-17).