



## **God's Promises and Warnings**

### **Judges 2:6-15**

*And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples, who were around them, and bowed down to them, And they provoked the LORD to anger” (Judges 2:12—ESV).*

The people of Israel had enjoyed the fulfillment of many promises from God, and they knew the reality of the true God in their personal experience. They knew their history and how God had led them out of Egypt, into the Promised Land, and had defeated all their enemies. They learned what it meant to obey God and receive His abundant blessings. To help them avoid the idol worship of their defeated neighbors and not turn their backs on the LORD, the LORD also gave them warnings. But they had been so blessed by God they began to disregard the LORD's warnings and thought they were so special they would never suffer what their neighbors had suffered. So, despite His warnings, they turned away from the LORD and eventually began to worship the gods of those around them. From that point on their lives became increasingly difficult and dangerous. They could not defeat their enemies, “as the LORD had warned” (Judges 2:14). They needed the LORD to send them a deliverer, and over the years He sent them many.

The history of Israel demonstrates spiritual truths that apply to everyone. If we abandon the LORD, unless we turn back to Him quickly, we will wander further and further away from God. The further we wander from the Light of the LORD's presence the more we will walk into mental, moral, and spiritual darkness. John 1:5 says that the darkness cannot comprehend or overcome the Light. As we move into the darkness, we lose the ability to comprehend the Light, and we certainly cannot overcome the Light. In Romans 1:21, the Apostle Paul explained this problem: “For though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened.” The further we move into the darkness the more we lose normal, God-given sense. By learning the truth about God with the gracious help of the Holy Spirit, we can turn back to God and step back into the Light. We can turn to Jesus, our Deliverer. Following Jesus, we walk into the Light and with the Light of God step-by-step. We comprehend the Truth and rejoice in the Light of God.