

This is something that very basic in our journey of faith, but this is something that very important so that we can get the most of Christianity for our life.

God want you to be His friend, but He is not just only about friend. God want you to call Him as father, but He is not just only about father. People may ask advice from God, but indeed He is not just about being advisor. God is God and let God be God! We must not diminish God from His authority as God in our life. By learning and understanding that God must be God, we will be able to grow in the right track of Christianity and not end up in the wrong hope.

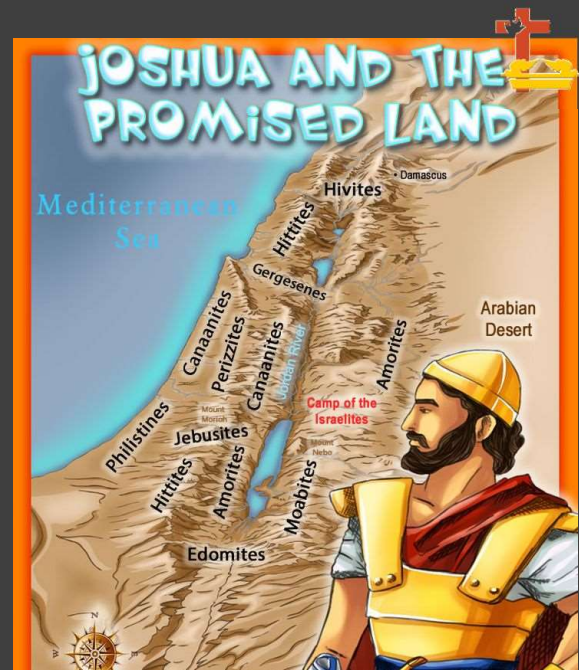
Sometimes believers like to say and pray **Immanuel** which means **God with us** Mat.1:23. Truly that is the most powerful promise that believers can have in their life. But when God with us, **will we let God to be God?** Or we want to be god and God must obey to our plan.



In the OT, God introduced Himself, and also being introduced by His people, with lots of title. That long list is about **the action of God**, but indeed God is not only limited with His action. God is God and we must let Him to be God in our life. God is our banner, Jehovah Nissi, He is our victory in the warfield, but He is not only God in the midst of war! God is our healer, Jehovah Rapha, He can make the miracle of healing for His people, but truly He is not only God over disease!

Israel with Joshua

Judges 2:7-9 ⁷ So the people **served the LORD** all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen **all the great works of the LORD** which He had done for Israel. ⁸ Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died *when he was* 110 years old. ⁹ And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.



As we continue our learning from the book of Judges, we can learn how people of Israel having problem to let God be God in their life. There was a significant difference how Israel in the days of Joshua treated God and what happened after Joshua passed away.

When we let God be God, one important thing that we must do is **serve Him!** Serve also means **work** (till the land, labour) and **worship**. Believers that know God will happily, willingly, and joyfully **serve God** and do whatever please Him.

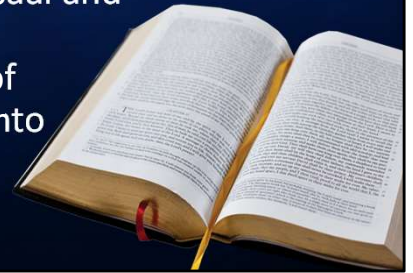
All the great works of the Lord are including, but not limited to, His miracles, His teaching, His punishment. Knowing God is not only about fearing His punishments, fearing the 40 years walking in the wilderness, but also understanding His heart, receiving His love, experiencing His works for us.

Israel *after* Joshua: apostasy & oppression



Judges 2:10-11 ¹⁰ When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them **who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done** for Israel. ¹¹ Then the children of Israel **did evil** in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

Judges 2:13-14 ¹³ They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So **He delivered them** into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and **He sold them** into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.



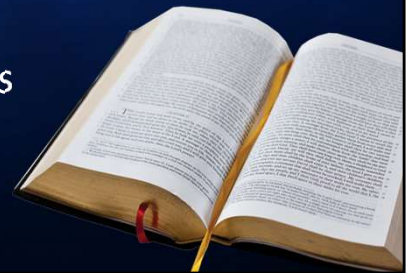
When people **DO NOT KNOW** God, neither His work, they will easily backslide and let themselves plunge to problems. The book of Judges is filled with so many problems as people of Israel forsook the true God. Jesus said that without God we can do nothing.

Israel *after* Joshua: deliverance



Judges 2:16-17

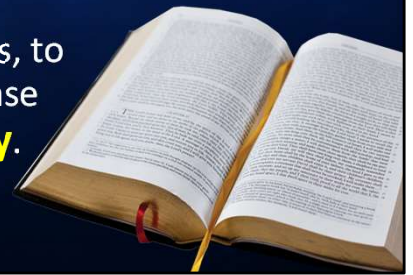
¹⁶ Nevertheless, **the Lord raised up judges** who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord; they did not do so.



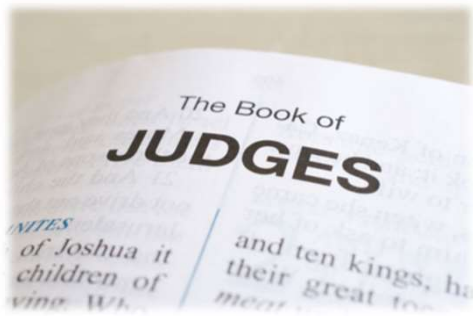
Israel *after* Joshua: back to apostasy again!



Judges 2:18-19 ¹⁸ And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for **the Lord was moved to pity** by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they **reverted** and **behaved more corruptly** than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their **stubborn way**.



God's People *without* God



Deliverance

Apostasy



The Book of
Judges

Distress

Oppression

Without God, people of Israel keep falling in the same problem (there are 6 major cycles like this throughout the book of Judges).

Apostasy: the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief or principle

Oppression: prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority (Moab, Philistine, Canaanite, Midianite, Ammonite)

Distress: extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain

Deliverance: the action of being rescued or set free (**13 judges**)

Without God, the life of believers will be very miserable and keep falling again and again.

Let God be God:

God is NOT a patch for your problem

8 times people of Israel in the book of Judges cried to the Lord for helps!

***Judges 3:9** When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.*



God is not meant to only be a patch to fix something that not right in our life! At least 8 times people of Israel cried again and again, but still they did not let God be God in their life! And somehow, God also being so gracious and merciful by keep helping them again and again.

Let God be God:

not only call Him, but do His will

Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

²² **Many** will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and **done many wonders** in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’



Jesus **warned** those who never let God be God in their life! Not just a small group of people, but Jesus said it will be **many**! They just called Jesus when they need to perform miracle for the glory of God’s kingdom, but unfortunately they never let God to be the true God in their life! They may performed so many distinctive ministry because God is so gracious and merciful toward His people. But again they did not let God be God in their life!

So, how can we let God be the true God in our life?

Ezekiel 20:19-20 ¹⁹ I *am* the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; ²⁰ hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God'



Let God be God

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me (*NIV: faithfully*) and be blameless.

If we truly want to let God be God in our life, then we must do His will, not our will; do everything with His way, not with our own way. This is **the first time** in the Bible that God introduce Himself (to Abraham) as the Almighty God and we must do His will. At the previous chapter, Abraham just did a mistake by trying to solve his problem with his own way.

I am Almighty God = El Shaddai

God: EL = mighty one; mighty things in nature; strength, power

Almighty: SHADDAY = almighty, most powerful

By introducing Himself as the ALMIGHTY one, actually God want Abraham to obey with His words and do His will. Letting God to be God is NOT dragging God to do our own will because He is Almighty, but instead we submit ourselves and do His will because we believe He is ALMIGHT to protect us and take care us.



Let God be God

Giving honour and reverence to Him

Malachi 1:6 "A son honours *his* father, and a servant *his* master. If then I am the Father, **where is My honour?** And if I *am* a Master, **where is My reverence?** Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'



The way we can let God be God is giving the right honour and reverence, not only when we come to the church, but **at all times!**

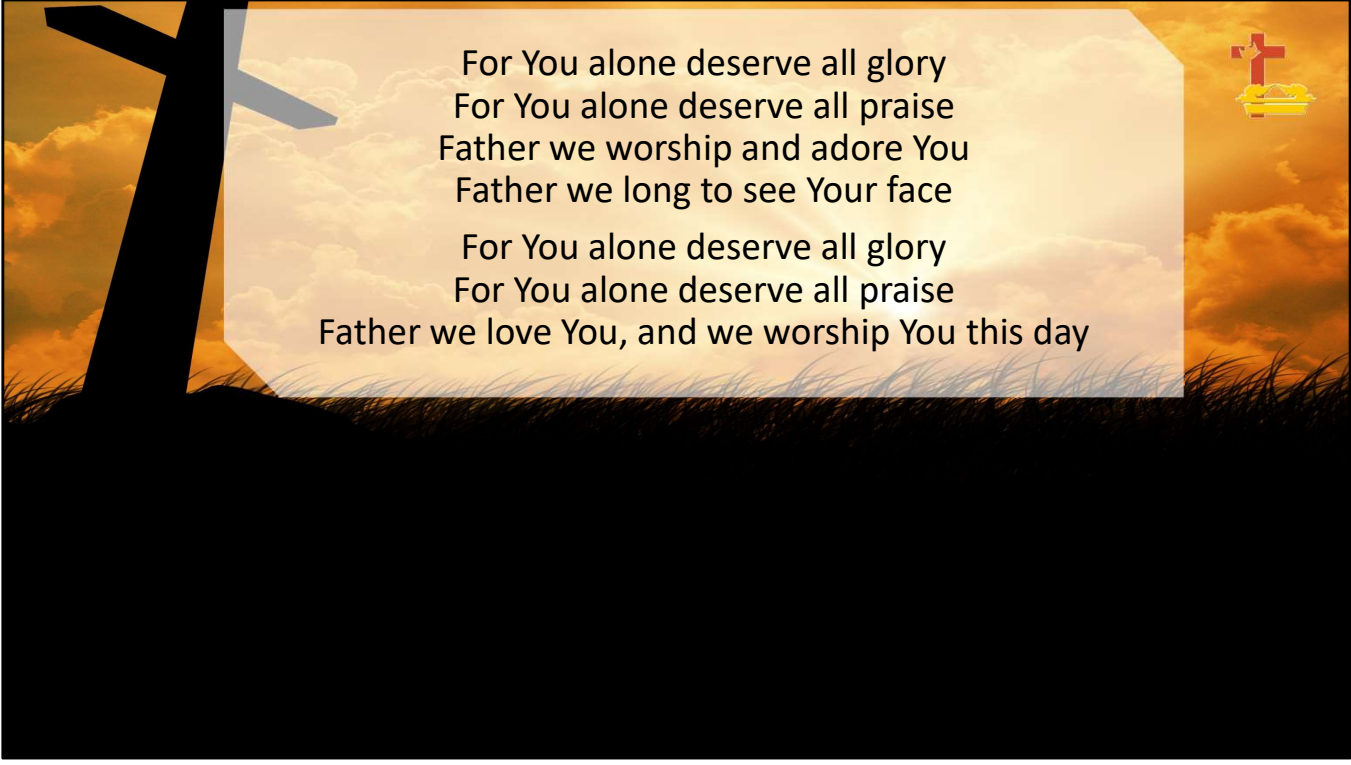
Mal.1:6 Seorang anak menghormati bapanya dan seorang hamba menghormati tuannya. Jika Aku ini bapa, **di manakah hormat yang kepada-Ku itu?** Jika Aku ini tuan, **di manakah takut yang kepada-Ku itu?** firman TUHAN semesta alam kepada kamu, hai para imam yang menghina nama-Ku. Tetapi kamu berkata: "Dengan cara bagaimanakah kami menghina nama-Mu?"

Let God Be God

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive **glory** and **honour** and **power**; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."



Wahyu 4:11 "Ya Tuhan dan Allah kami, Engkau layak menerima puji-pujian dan hormat dan kuasa; sebab Engkau telah menciptakan segala sesuatu; dan oleh karena kehendak-Mu semuanya itu ada dan diciptakan."



For You alone deserve all glory
For You alone deserve all praise
Father we worship and adore You
Father we long to see Your face

For You alone deserve all glory
For You alone deserve all praise
Father we love You, and we worship You this day

