

JUDGES

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #7



AUTHOR: PROPHET SAMUEL
(most likely)



WRITTEN: AROUND 1050 BC

Covering the time period of 1350 - 1050 BC

7

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS: The story of a female judge (Deborah) and a female assassin (Jael)

KEY STORIES:

- Gideon defeats the Midianites with only 300 men. (**Judges 6**)
- Delilah deceives Samson into getting the secret of his strength (**Judges 16**)

KEY VERSES:

Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. **Judges 2:16**

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. **Judges 21:15**

Important Points about the Book:

- Israel, by the design and plan of God, was a "*theocracy*" - a nation whose supreme ruler is God—not a king or president or prime minister. The book of Judges covers the time period when this takes place.
- After Joshua's death, the nation of Israel quickly deteriorated due to its unfaithfulness and disobedience to God. Judges outlines the cycle of disobedience and repentance.
- During these 300 years, Israel was served by a series of 14 judges (12 listed in Judges and two in I Samuel).

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The book of Judges picks up where Joshua leaves off and follows through the history of Israel's 12 judges over a period of about 300 years. It is a telling story of how quickly things get bad when God is forsaken and disobeyed and just how bad life gets when that happens. Israel's "cycle of life" is very typical of a Christian's cycle of obedience and disobedience to God. Man is often quick to repent when it gets ugly for him. **Judges 2:16-19; 5:8**



NUMBER OF CHAPTERS:
21



TYPE:
HISTORY



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MOST LIKELY THE
PROPHET SAMUEL

BREAKDOWNS

Judges 1	Wars After the Death of Joshua
Judges 2	Unheeded Warnings; Defeat
Judges 3	First Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar
Judges 4-5	Fourth Judge: Deborah (with Barak); Jael Nails a King
Judges 6-8	Fifth Judge: Gideon (army goes from 32,000 to 300)
Judges 9	Abimelech's Murder of His 70 Brothers
Judges 10-12	Sixth thru Eighth Judges: Tola, Jair, Jephthah
Judges 12	Ninth thru Eleventh Judges: Ibzan, Elon, Abdon
Judges 13-16	Twelfth Judge: Samson
Judges 17	Micah's Idols
Judges 18	The Tribe of Dan Invades
Judges 19	The Levite and His Concubine
Judges 20-21	Israel's Civil War (The Nation Against the Tribe of Benjamin)

1 TRIBES REFUSE TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY; THE FIRST THREE JUDGES (Chapters 1-3)

2 DEBORAH AND GIDEON (Chapters 4-8)

3 ABIMELECH (Chapter 9)

4 TOLA, JAIR, JEPHTHAH, IBZAN, ELON, ABDON (Chapters 10-12)

5 SAMSON (Chapters 13-16)

6 CIVIL WAR (Chapters 17-21)

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK OF JUDGES:

- Chapters: 21
- Verses: 618
- Words: 18,966
- Some count Abimelech as a judge as well as Samuel and Eli
- Judges is a book about sin and its consequences.
- 7 apostasies...7 servitudes...7 deliverances
- In Judges, the oppressors of Israel were the: Mesopotamians, Moabites, Philistines, Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites
- Judges 1 lists the inhabitants of the Promised Land that Israel did not completely conquer (because of disobedience)
- Another instance of Moses' prophecy against the children of Israel is in Judges 2:8-13