

Judges

Breakdown

- The book's title comes from the style of government that began in Israel after Joshua's death. The Israel's judges didn't preside over courts of law like judges we are familiar with. They were leaders raised up by God to deliver Israel from the consequences of turning their backs on Him. Some of the judges were warriors, some priests, and some prophets.
- The book of Judges is believed to be written by Samuel, and covers the first 300 years in the promised land from approximately 1375 B.C. to 1075 B.C.

Main Points

- The book of Judges shows us how the Israelites adjusted to their new life in the promised land. It turns out they didn't adjust well at all. We see a continued pattern with God's people. First, they would turn away from God, then they would be pulled into bondage by one of the nations they were supposed to have driven out of Canaan. The bondage would continue until they cried out to God for help, and He would raise up someone to deliver them. This same pattern repeats itself over and over throughout the entire book.
- At first glance, it might be hard to see Jesus in the book of Judges, but if we look closely, we can see signs that point to Him in each of the judges who were warrior/saviors for Israel. Each story and each judge reminds us of our need for a true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Did you know?

- Israel's 2nd judge was Ehud. He defeated the king of Moab in the king's own chambers and escaped safely. Why did it take so long for the servants to find out the king was dead?
- Jael, an unlikely female hero, saved Israel by single-handedly defeating the leader of the Canaanite army in a very unexpected way. What did she do?
- Abimelech, one of Gideon's sons, decided to become king of Israel without being appointed by God. He did some really horrible things and literally destroyed his family in the process. What did he do and what happened to him?
- The men of the tribe of Ephraim had major anger issues, threatening to fight two of the judges of Israel, but their disagreement with Jephthah almost wiped out the entire tribe. What were they upset about and how did Jephthah retaliate?
- Jesus appeared to Samson's parents as the Angel of the Lord and told them they would have a son who would save Israel. How did they know it was Jesus who appeared to them?
- The tribe of Benjamin was almost wiped out because of a very vile & disturbing act. The other tribes cooked up a scheme to ensure Benjamin survived. What was their plan?

Further Thought

- Eight of the tribes of Israel failed to follow God's instruction by driving the Canaanites out of the land He had given them. Why did they give up, and what does that teach us?
- The Israelites repeatedly followed the nations around them, serving their false gods instead of the Lord God. Why did that happen over & over, and what can we learn from it?
- The third generation of Israelites after the exodus did what was evil in God's sight because they didn't know the Lord or the work He had done for Israel. What does that teach us?