

JUDGES

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

7

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

21

TYPE

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

After Joshua's death, Israel instituted God's rule of 12 judges, in lieu of a king. The nation quickly deteriorated due to its unfaithfulness to God. The book outlines the cycle of betrayals and repentance, and some good judges are featured.



WRITTEN

Around 1050 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

1350-1050 BC



AUTHOR

Most likely the prophet Samuel

1	2	3	4	5	6
TRIBES REFUSE TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY; THE FIRST THREE JUDGES	DEBORAH AND GIDEON	ABIMELECH	TOLA, JAIR, JEPHTAH, IBZAN, ELON, ABDON	SAMSON	CIVIL WAR
JUDGES 1-3	JUDGES 4-8	JUDGES 9	JUDGES 10-12	JUDGES 13-16	JUDGES 17-21
Israel continues to conquer the Canaanites; however, some tribes refuse to drive them out and a list of their sins are revealed. Othniel judges Israel, Ehud delivers Israel from Eglon the king of Moab, and Shamgar delivers Israel from the Philistines.	Deborah, the only female judge of Israel, defeats the king of Canaan. Gideon defeats 10,000 Midianites with only 300 men, who were chosen based on how they drank water.	Considered one of the most evil men in history, Abimelech murders 70 of his half-brothers to obtain the judgeship. He dies via assisted suicide after a woman fractures his skull.	God-fearing judges Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon judge Israel righteously, restoring Israel each time it wanders. Their stories are outlined in chronological order, some more brief than others.	Samson is given the special gift of great strength, as long as he keeps his long hair. Samson is betrayed by Delilah, who learns his secret, cuts his hair, and delivers him to the Philistines.	The tribes of Israel kill 26,000 Benjamites after they hide men of Gibeah. These men were the perpetrators of the first rape and murder of a woman on record. Only 600 men remain of the tribe of Benjamin and they take wives from the land of Shiloh to continue their lineage.

Israel's Judges



