

JUDGES

INTRODUCTION



No Leader



Torah Forgotten



Native gods

The generation after Joshua abandoned Moses' teachings, forfeiting God's protection. This traps Israel in a cycle of oppression:



Deliverers are local leaders called "JUDGES"

IMPORTANT

The judges sin a lot. Think of them as anti-heroes. DO NOT use as Role Models!

(Ch. 1:1-3:6)

THE 12 JUDGES

SEVEN "FORMER" JUDGES
(four "Major;" Three "minor")

- 1 OTHNIEL: Prominent family
God's Spirit! (Ch. 3:7-11)
- 2 EHUD: assassin, lefty (Ch. 3:8-30)
- 3 SHAMGAR (Ch. 3:7-11)
- 4 DEBORAH - BARAK (Ch. 4-5)
- 5 GIDEON: Most focus
Angelic Announcement (Ch. 6:11-26)
God's Spirit!
 - ✓ Removes native gods
 - ✓ Rejects (?) kingship
 - ✗ Sets up alt. divination
 - ✗ Son causes civil war
 (Ch. 6-9)
- 6 TOLA (Ch.10:1-2)
- 7 JAIR (Ch.10:3-5)

INTERLUDE: Israel follows foreign gods, God only helps after the idols are removed (Ch. 10:6-18)

FIVE "LATTER" JUDGES
(two "Major;" Three "minor")

- 8 JEPHTHAH: Prostitute's son, rejected by family
God's Spirit! (Ch. 11:29)
 - ✓ Appeals to God as Judge
 - ✗ Sacrifices daughter
 - ✗ Intertribal violence
 (Ch. 11:11-12:7)
- 9 IBZAN (12:8-10)
- 10 ELON (12:11-12)
- 11 ABDON (12:13-15)
- 12 SAMSON - Solo warrior
Angelic Announcement (Ch. 13)
God's Spirit! (Ch. 14:6)
Miracle child
 - ✗ Marries a Philistine
 - ✗ Motivated by personal vengeance
 - ✗ Rejected by Judah
 (Ch. 13-15)

Both cycles show decline in Israel's leadership after Moses and Joshua

(Ch. 3-15)

THE PEOPLE

Four vignette's showing how widespread Israel's chaos got before the monarchy

- 1 SAMSON + DELILAH
An individual Israelite leader is compromised (Ch. 16)
[NO King (17:6)]
- 2 MICAH'S IDOLATRY
A family sets up a private shrine, a Levite is compromised (Ch. 17)
[NO King (18:1)]
- 3 DAN'S MIGRATION
A tribe abandon's their land, takes Micah's priest + a city (Ch. 18)
[NO King (19:1)]
- 4 ISRAEL vs. BENJAMIN
The whole nation in chaos: rape, murder, war, foolish oats, kidnapping, corruption (Ch. 19-21)

NO KING in ISRAEL

Everyone does as they see fit (21:25)

(Ch. 16-21)