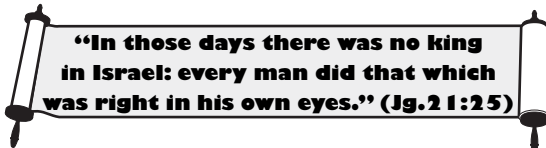


## Outline of Judges

- 1 Failure to Complete Conquest
- 2 God's Judgment for Failure
- 3-5 First Five Judges
- 6-8 Gideon, Hesitant Hero
- 9-12 Six More Judges
- 13-16 Samson, Carnal Champion
- 17-21 National Degradation

### Authorship and Introduction

The recurring phrase, "In those days there was no king in Israel" (Jg. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25) suggests the book was written during the period of the kings. Jewish tradition from the Talmud believes Samuel wrote the book of Judges. Samuel's ministry began around 1021 B.C. If Samuel wrote the book it was likely between 1051 and 1004 B.C.



The book of Judges covers a period of about 300 years compared to Joshua which only covered about 35 years.

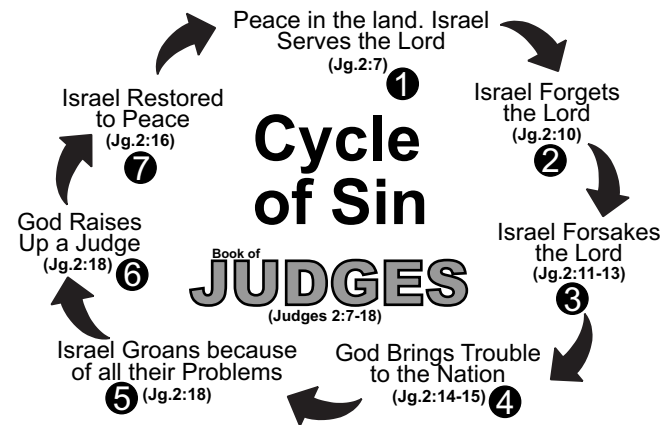
The idea of a Judge is not new to this period of time. Moses ordered the people to appoint judges in every town to settle disputes (Du. 16:18). Plus there was a chief justice at the tabernacle who, along with the High Priest, helped settle difficult cases (Du. 17:9). After Joshua died each tribe was to conquer and occupy its allotted territory. As the need arose, God would raise up judges to lead

## JUDGES

*Judges shows God's sovereign grace in preserving Israel in spite of Israel. The book provides an apologetic to justify Israel's monarchy.*

areas of Israel against local enemies. The writer points out that God Himself, or Yahweh, is the Judge of Judges (Jg. 11:27). This puts into perspective the fact that the Judges were God's agents in Israel who functioned under Him. Though they were highly respected the Judge was no king. Their authority was not absolute, permanent, nor hereditary.

The book of Judges does not record all of Israel's judges. For example, Eli and Samuel were judges who were mentioned in First Samuel. It appears the author selected only a sampling of the actual judges.



Joshua and Judges are contrasting books. Joshua reveals victory, and success as the result of trusting the Lord. Judges reveals defeat and failure as the result of not trusting the Lord. It is interesting that the same process takes place on the personal level as it did on the national level.

## HISTORY

BOOK 07  
**Jg.**  
JUDGES  
21 CHAPTERS

The book is visually structured as a descending spiral. In each cycle Israel seems to sink lower and lower than their previous state. This appears true in spite of the fact that each cycle included a spiritual revival.

Israel's root cause of deterioration was religious apostasy. Israel turned from God. God told them to drive out the Canaanites (1:21, 27-33), but they made covenants with them instead (2:1-2). Instead of destroying the pagan altars, Israel served their idols and forsook the Lord (2:11-12, 17, 19). They would begin by tolerating that which God condemned. In time, they would begin to admire these things.

### Samson and Delilah

The New Testament does not list Samson's failures. Hebrews 11 names him as conquering kingdoms, administering justice, etc. Samson gives us hope that God can use us no matter how imperfect our lives may be.



### CHRIST IN JUDGES

- The Angel of the Lord is Christ who appeared to Gideon. Notice "the angel of the Lord" (6:12,20) changes to "the Lord" (6:14,23)