

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Judges"
Book-7

Key Passage – Judges 2:20-21; Judges 21:25

Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Judges: Hebrew title – "*rulers, deliverers, or saviors*" The idea of maintaining justice and settling disputes but also has the meaning of "*Liberating and delivering.*" First the Judges liberate the people, then they administer justice.

It could be called "The Book of Failure" - "The Book of No King"

These Judges were not national leaders; rather, they were local leaders who delivered the people from various oppressors.

That God could call these "ordinary people" as judges and use them so mightily is another evidence of His grace and power (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

The Author – The author is anonymous. The traditional view is that **Samuel** or **one of his students** wrote Judges. The Jews believe that **Samuel** wrote it.

When Written – Written after the death of Joshua. The period of the Judges is 350 years. **Judges 17:6** Also **Judges 1:21** David drove them out **2 Samuel 5:5-9**

Where it was Written – Canaan. Joshua brought the people into the promised land.

Purpose – To cover the period of time from the death of Joshua to Samuel and the kings. Through Joshua, God gave victory to nations, in Judges, individuals. **13 Judges are named.**

After the death of Joshua, Israel plunges into 350 years (Dark Age).

Seven cycles of oppression and deliverance.

Sin always leads to suffering, and Repentance always leads to deliverance.

1. Israel first tolerated the enemy.
2. Then took tribute (taxes) from the enemy.
3. Then mixed with the enemy.
4. Finally surrendered to the enemy.

Whereas the Book of Joshua is a record of united efforts.

Judges records a divided nation no longer devoted to the Lord, forgetful of the covenant that they made at Sinai.

Theme – *"No King" Obedience brings God's blessing; Disobedience brings God's discipline!*

Gideon, perhaps the greatest of the judges, refused to set up a royal dynasty.

Judges 8:23

Key Words – 8 times "the people did evil" We have a summary of the entire book in **Judges 2:10-19**— **Cycle: blessing, disobedience, chastening, repentance, deliverance, (Repeated)**

Key Chapter – **Judges 2** Miniature of the entire book.

Key Passage – **Judges 2:20-21; Judges 21:25**

Outline –

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Judges 1-2 | Apathy: (Defeat) |
| 2. Judges 3-16 | Apostasy: (Discipline) |
| 3. Judges 17-21 | Anarchy: (Decay) |

Early Victories: Judges 1:1-26 Just as Joshua continues the history of Israel after the death of Moses (**Joshua 1:1**), the Book of Judges picks up the story of Israel after the death of Joshua (**Judges 1:1**).

The Lord was no longer "King in Israel"—the tribes were divided;

We have a summary of the entire book in **Judges 2:10-19**—blessing, disobedience, chastening, repentance, deliverance.

Records The Early Victories of Judah and Simeon: Judges 1:1-18
Judges 1:1-5

Defeats: Judges 1:19-36 **Judges 1:19**

Joshua 23-24, Joshua had warned them against compromising with the enemy.

Failing To Consider The Law: Judges 2:1-10, Judges 2:10,
Joshua 1:13

Failing To Cleave To The Lord: Judges 2:11-23, Judges 2:11-12

Judges 2:18

In the Book of **Joshua**, there was one leader and God was with the **whole nation**; but in **Judges**, there are many leaders, and God is with these **leaders only, not with the entire nation**.

Judge #1 Othniel: Judges 3:1-11 The people of Mesopotamia enslaved Israel for eight years; then God raised up Caleb's son-in-law, Othniel, to deliver the nation.

Othniel - name means "*God is might,*" and he lived up to his name. **Judges 1:9-15** and **Joshua 15:16-19**. It must have pleased the family of Caleb to have such a courageous man in their ranks. He delivered the nation, and they had rest for forty years.

Judge #2 Ehud: Judges 3:12-30 This time the Lord used Moab to chasten Israel, along with Ammon and Amalek, the old enemies of the Jews! The Israelites served as slaves for **eighteen years** until Ehud delivered them and gave them rest for eighty years.

Judges 3:20-22

Once the enemy king was slain, Ehud was able to muster his army and drive out the invaders.

Judge #3 Shamgar: Judges 3:31 Judges 3:31 who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad; and he also saved Israel.

Oxgoad - (About 10 Feet long, spear at one end and a metal tip at the other.)

Judge #4 Deborah and Barak: Judges 4-5 Deborah was a prophetess that God raised up. She then came to Barak that he should be a deliverer and he said only if you go with me! (Hold my hand)

Though Barak is listed as a man of faith in **Hebrews 11:32**, we see him here as a man who had to depend upon Deborah for victory.

The Song of Deborah and Barak: Judges 5

Description of the terrible state of society in Israel at that time.

Judges 5:6-8

The Woman Jael Killed Sisera: Judges 5:24-27

Judge #5 Gideon: Judges 6-8:32

Hebrews 11:32 puts Gideon at the head of the list of Judges. **he was a farmer, not a trained warrior**, we see how wonderful his faith was!

Judges 6:16-17

The Sign of the Fleece: Judges 6:36-40 This was unbelief that led Gideon to want a sign. God had said, He had already given a sign in the sacrifice.

Gideon's 300 Chosen Men: Judges 7 Gideon starts with 32,000 men and God reduces it to 300 men. God alone was going to receive the glory. 135,000 Midianites

Victory was achieved through trumpets, clay pots and torches.

When the clay pots were broken the light shined through! When we as vessels are broken then God can be seen. The glory is the Lord not us, the clay pots!

Gideon's Sad Ending: Judges 8:23-27 He made an idolatrous "ephod" (or image) with the seventy pounds of gold he collected. (Good desire, priesthood, but wrong means)

What the Midianites could not do by means of swords, Satan accomplished with gold earrings.

Judge #6 Abimelech: Judges 8:33-9:57 Judges 8:30-31
Shechem – *Spiritual Confusion, place of dedication and a place of compromise!*

Judges 9:1-5 Before Gideon's family was slain, they were not treated kindly by the nation. How soon the sinful hearts of humans forget both the Lord and the people who have served them faithfully. **Where was the outrage!**

Judges 9:23-24 (What goes around comes around!) **Galatians 6:7-9**

Judge #7 Tola: Judges 10:1-2 Judges 10:1-2

Judge #8 Jair: Judges 10:3-5 Judges 10:3-4

Judges 10:5 And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

Insincere Repentance: Judges 10:10 This is insincere.

Sincere Repentance: Judges 10:15-16 They turned from their sinful ways. **2 Corinthians 7:8-11**

Judge #9 Jephthah: Judges 10:6-12:7 Judges 11:1-2

Judges 11:3 This is a rag tag group that hang out with him. **Judges 11:5-8**

Jephthah Rash Vow: Judges 11:30-31

Judges 11:34-35

Ephraim's Obnoxious Attitude: Judges 12:1-7 They would not fight with Jephthah but after the battle was over, they show up with weapons and threaten Israel.

Judges 12:5-6 Thus there fell at that time 42,000 of Ephraim.

'**Shibboleth**'" – "a test for determining if you belong"

Judge #10 Ibzan: Judges 12:8-10 This man was a polygamist. He had 30, sons and 30 daughters. He judged for 7 years.

Judge #11 Elon: Judges 12:11-12 All that is noted about him is that he judged for 10 years.

Judge #12 Abdon: Judges 12:13-15 Judges 12:14 He too was a polygamist and was financially well to do in that he provided 70 donkeys. He judged 8 years.

Judge #13 Samson: Judges 13:1-16:31 A man who fought God's battle by day, and played with the Devil by night!

Samson – "sunny" He did brighten his parents, and Israel during a dark time but it was short lived. He was into pleasing himself, not the Lord.

(Godly home is no guarantee of a godly life if God's way is rejected!)

Samson Takes a Philistine Wife: This hurts his godly parents, but God steps in and overrides Samson's decision. **Judges 14:4**

Samson's The One-Man Army: Judges 15 He destroys the Philistines Crops with foxes and torches, Kills 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey.

Samson's Down Fall, Delilah: Judges 16

This man who was called "Sunny" ends his life in the dark by having his eyes gouged out. **Judges 16:30**

3. Anarchy: Judges 17-21

Idolatry and Man-Made Priesthood: Judges 17-18 Judges 17:5-6

Immorality, Rape, and Murder: Judges 19

Judges 19:29-30

Civil War: Judges 20-21 Judges 20:13

The Easy Way Becomes The Hard Way: Judges 21 Benjamites would not judge the sin, so Israel made a vow that no one of Israel would intermarry with them.

Application: Our day is similar to that described in the Book of Judges

- **There is no king in Israel. (God is King, The Authority)**
- **People are doing what is right in their own eyes. (No Absolute Authority)**
- **God's people can't seem to work together.**
- **People are in bondage to various enemies.**

But here and there, God is raising up men and women who believe Him, confront the enemy, and win the victory.

God can still work through people who will trust His Word, yield to His Spirit, and follow His commands.