

Series "Route 66"  
"Judges"  
Book-7

**Romans 1:22**

Hebrew title **Judges** - "*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.

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

**When Written - Judges 17:6 Judges 1:21**

Covers 335 years, the period of 1380-1045 BC. Judges extends another 30 years as it includes Samuel.

**Where it was Written -**

**Purpose** - To cover the period of time from the death of Joshua to Samuel and the kings.

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

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. It was only through God's deliverers (the judges) that the Israelites found victory.

**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!*

**Key Words - Cycle:** Over **8X** we are told that **"the people did evil"** We have a summary of the entire book in **Judges 2:10-19-blessing, disobedience, chastening, repentance, deliverance, (Repeated)**

**Key Chapter - Judges 2**

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

**Outline -**

**1. Apathy (1-2)**

**A. Early victories (1:1-26)**

**B. Repeated defeats (1:27-36)**

**C. Divine rebuke (2:1-5)**

**D. Serving other gods (2:6-23) (summary of the entire book)**

**2. Apostasy (3-16)**

**A. Othniel (3:1-11) (Mesopotamia)**

**B. Ehud and Shamgar (3:12-31) (Moab)**

**C. Deborah and Barak (4-5) (The Canaanites)**

**D. Gideon (6-8) (Midian)**

**E. Abimelech, Tola, and Jair (9:1-10:5) (Men of Shechem)**

**F. Jephthah (10:6-12:15) (Ammon)**

**G. Samson (13-16) (The Philistines)**

**3. Anarchy (17-21)**

**A. Idolatry (17-18)**

**B. Immorality (19)**

**C. Civil war (20-21)**

**Early Victories: Judges 1:1-26**

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

**Records the early victories of Judah and Simeon: Judges 1:1-18**

**Judges 1:1-5**

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

**They failed to consider the Law: Judges 2:1-10 Judges 2:10**

**Joshua 1:13**

**They failed to cleave to the Lord: Judges 2:11-23**

**Judges 2:11-12**

**Judges 2:18**

**Judge 1# Othniel: Judges 3:1-11**

**Othniel** - name means "*God is might*"

**Judge 2# Ehud: Judges 3:12-30**

**Judges 3:20-22**

**Judge 3# Shamgar: Judges 3:31**

**Judge 4# Deborah and Barak: Judges 4-5**

**Heb. 11:32**

**It is interesting to contrast Barak and Samson.** Both were associated with women, but in one case this led to victory, while in the other it led to defeat.

**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**

**Judges 6:16-17**

**The Sign of the Fleece: Judges 6:36-40**

**Gideon's 300 Chosen Men: Judges 7**

**Gideon's Sad Ending: Judges 8:23-27** He made an idolatrous "ephod"

**Judge 6# Abimelech: Judges 8:33-9:57 Judges 8:30-31**

**Judges 9:1-5**

**Judges 9:23-24**

**Gal. 6:7-9**

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

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

**Insincere Repentance: Judges 10:10**

**Sincere Repentance: Judges 10:15-16**

**2 Cor. 7:8-11**

**Judge 9# Jephthah Judges 10:6-12:7 Judges 11:1-3**

**Judges 11:5-8**

**Jephthah Rash Vow: Judges 11:30-31**

**Judges 11:34-35**

**Ephraim's Obnoxious Attitude: Judges 12:1-7**

**Judges 12:6**

**Judge 10# Ibzan Judges 12:8-10**

**Judge 11# Elon Judges 12:11-12**

**Judge 12# Abdon Judges 12:13-15 Judges 12:14**

**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"**

**Samson Takes a Philistine Wife: Judges 14:4**

**Samson's The One Man Army: Judges 15**

**Samson's Down Fall, Delilah: Judges 16**

**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**

**Conclusion:**

**I think that we today are living in a period similar to that described in the Book of Judges**

- **There is no king in Israel.**
- **People are doing what is right in their own eyes.**
- **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 do His bidding.**