

## The Whole Truth Judges/Ruth

**Introduction:** The theme of Joshua was conquering and settling the land of Canaan.

**NOTE:** The theme will continue in Judges but the focus will be on how much land was not settled. Most of the tribes failed to take over their designated territory.

A. After the death of Joshua (1:1)

**NOTE:** See Joshua 1:1

B. Unlike the previous book—not named after a person—no one person is prominent

C. Author—very little internal or external evidence

1. Many conservative scholars say anonymous
2. Some evidence it was Samuel
3. Babylonian Talmud (500 BC—Jewish Rabbis in Babylon) say Samuel
4. Everything in Judges precedes Samuel's death so it is possible

D. Possible Date of Book

1. See statements about Israelite King

Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

“In those days there was no king in Israel.”

2. Suggests written after Saul became King in 1050 BC
3. Probably written (1050-1000 BC) David was reigning in 1000 BC
4. Covers about 325 years—1375-1050 BC
  - a. Eli serve 40 years as judge and priest
  - b. Samuel the same
  - c. All told—Judges period about 400 years
  - d. A nation of tribes governing themselves

*When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Judges 2:10-14 NKJV*

#### E. Twelve Judges overall

Major Judges	Minor Judges
Othniel 3:7-11	Shagmar 3:31
Ehud 3:12-30	Tola 10:1-2
Deborah 4:1-5:31	Jair 10:3-5
Gideon 6:1-8:35	Izban 12:8-10
Jephthah 10:6-12:7	Elon 12:11-12
Samson 13:1-16:31	Abdon 12:13-15

#### Three Sections

##### I. In those days there was no Joshua in Israel (1:1-3:6).

###### A. Territorial results (1:1-2:5)

1. In the absence of a leader they enquired of the Lord who will go first (1:1, 2)
2. They failed to drive them out—"but you have not obeyed my voice." This is always a recipe for failure.
3. See 2:2—"If they had done what they did NOT do they would not have done what they DID do." No Joshua—but not off the hook.
4. Lots of tears—no repentance (2:5)

###### B. Spiritual Results (2:6-3:6)

1. Godliness lasted one generation (2:6-9)
2. After Joshua they failed and the anger of God (2:10-15)
3. Anger, pity, deliverance cycle (2:16-23)
4. Nations that remained and troubled Israel (3:1-6)

## II. In those days there were judges in Israel. (3:7, 16:31)

### A. Minor Judges

#### 1. Shagmar—3:31

- a. Followed Ehud
- b. Before Deborah
- c. Ox goad
  - Malmad habaqar
  - Verb—lamad—to train
  - Used what was used to train oxen
- d. Like Samson—battle with Philistines

*For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." Judges 13:5 NKJV*

#### 2. Tola—10:1, 2

#### 3. Jair—10:3-5

#### 4. Ibzan—12:8-10

#### 5. Elon—12:11, 12

#### 6. Abdon—12:13-15

### B. Major Judges

#### 1. Othniel (3:7-11)—From Judah—deliverance from Mesopotamia

- a. Nephew of Caleb
- b. Fought King of Aram (Mesopotamia)
- c. 40 years of peace
- d. He survives faithless generation like his uncle Caleb
- e. No nails through head, no killing with donkeys jawbone—he is exemplary
- f. Model judge

#### 2. Ehud (3:12-30) deliverance from Moabites

- a. Was to deliver a tribute to Moabite King—Eglon
- b. Made a dagger and kept on right thigh
- c. Sent people away after gave tribute
- d. Left handed dagger to stomach
- e. Defeated Moabites
- f. 80 years of rest

INTERESTING:

Ehud—left handed in right handed world  
Deborah—woman in a world of male leaders  
Gideon—youngest of many brothers  
Jephthah—Son of a harlot  
Samson—Nazarite

3. Deborah and Barak (4:1-5:3)—deliver from Canaanites

- a. She prophesied that God would give Canaanites over to Barak—Canaanite King—Jabin
- b. He insisted she accompany him (4:1-8)

NOTE: God spoke to her not him

- c. Barak and men defeated Canaan (4:10-24)
- d. Commander escaped to tent of Hebrew the Kenite and wife Jael (4:15-20)
- e. Jael killed him while asleep (4:21-24)
- f. Celebrated with a song (5:1-3)
- g. 40 years of rest

4. Gideon (6-8) deliver from Midianites

- a. From the tribe of Manasseh
- b. 7 years of oppression by Midianites (6:1-6)
- c. Before deliverance God sends a prophet (6:7-10)
- d. Gideon's call (6:11-18)

NOTE: Excuses like Moses

- e. Gideon's fleece (6:36-40)
- f. Gideon's army (7:1-7)
- g. Gideon's confirmation (7:9-15)
- h. Gideon's victory (7:16-23)
- i. Gideon dispels internal conflict (8:1-3)
- j. Gideon rejects offer to have a dynasty (8:22-28)
- k. But, like Aaron, leads Israel into idolatry
- l. People returned to idolatry (8:33-35)

Abimelech Interlude (Chapter 9)

- Gideon's concubine's son (8:3)
- Since he denied a dynasty, he paved the way for Abimelech
- Plot—9:1-6
- Reigned 3 years---9:22

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- Abimelech withstands attempts to overcome her (9:26-45)
- Abimelech killed (9:50-57)

#### 5. Jephthah—deliverance from Ammon (10:6-12:7)

- a. Sin of Israel (10:7-28)
- b. Offspring of father's affair made him an outcast (11:1-3)
- c. Later his brother's helped deliver him from Amorites (11:4-11)
- d. Foolish vow
- e. Awful ending (12:1-7)

#### 6. Samson (13-16)—deliverance from Philistines

- a. Great physical strength—weakness for Philistine women
- b. Setting for his role (13:1)
- c. Samson's birth prophesied (13:2-5)
- d. Birth (13:24, 25)
- e. Marriage of Philistine (14:1-4)
- f. Lion (15:15-20)
- g. First defeated Philistines (14:19, 20)
- h. Philistines fight (15:1-8)
- i. Philistines bind him but he is freed (15:9-15)
- j. With a harlot (16:1-3)
- k. Samson and Delilah (16:4-21)
  - Find out about his strength
  - 7 fresh bowstrings
  - New ropes
  - Weave the 7 locks of my hair
- l. Finally relented—(16:16-21)
- m. Death and victory (16:22-30)

### III. In those days there was no king. (17-21)

Two of the worst events in biblical history (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

#### A. Micah and the migration of Dan (17, 18)

1. Micah made his own shrine and made one of his servants priest (1-5)

*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 17:6 NKJV*

2. Levite from Bethlehem named by Micah to be his household priest (17:7-13)
3. Tribe of Dan still looking for land
4. Five spies meet Micah at home to prophesy (17:3-6)
5. Decide they will settle in Laish
6. They stop to kidnap Michal to be their priest (18:18-27)

#### **B. Rape of the Levite's concubines**

1. Levite and his concubine (19:1)
2. She leaves him and goes home (19:2)
3. Levite goes after her (19:3—ff)
4. She goes back with him—they lodge in Gibeah (19:11-21)
5. Rape (19:22-30)
6. War of revenge against Benjamin (Gibeah)—25,000 Benjamites killed—only 600 escaped
7. Foolish vow and attempt to re-populate Benjamintes

#### **IV. Ruth—the story of a remnant.**

##### Timeframe

- A. *Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. Ruth 1:1*
- B. Family goes to Moab
  1. Elimelech
  2. Naomi
  3. Mahlon—Moabite
  4. Chilion—Moabite
- C. Death of Men
- D. Return of Naomi and Ruth
- E. Ruth at field of Boaz (2:3-23)
- F. Naomi's plan (3:1-18)
- G. Boaz redeems Ruth (4:1-22)