

Judges- 21 Chapters

Title:

Judges- named for the series of rulers (judges) who are central to the narrative

Author:

Anonymous, tradition suggests possibly Samuel

Occasion and Purpose:

Possibly written early in the monarchy to tell the story of Israel's apostasy- highlighting the complete degradation of Israelite morals and the need for a king to give them unity and righteous leadership.

Themes:

1. Cyclical Pattern
 - a. Sin
 - b. Oppression
 - c. Crying out
 - d. Rescue
2. God's Rescue
3. Complete the Conquest
4. Need a King

Summary:

The sporadic history of the next period in Israelite history. The sad account of how the people turned away from their God. He then let them be conquered by their neighbors. They repented and cried out to God and He raised up a "judge" or leader to lead them in victory. This sad cycle of rebellion, oppression, repentance and deliverance is repeated many times. God was very good to His people even when they were not good to Him.

Organization:

Introduction	Incomplete conquest Joshua's generation gone Next generation idolaters		1:1-3:6
Cycle of Judges	MAJOR	Othniel – 3:7-11	3:7-16:31
	MAJOR	Ehud – 3:12-30	
	minor	Shamgar – 3:31	
	MAJOR	Barak (Deborah) – 4:1-5:31	
	MAJOR	Gideon – 6:1-8:32	
	FOIL	Abimelech – 8:33-9:57	
	minor	Tola – 10:1-2	
	minor	Jair – 10:3-5	
	MAJOR	Jephthah – 10:6-12:7	
	minor	Ibzan – 12:8-10	
	minor	Elon - 12:11-12	
	minor	Abdon – 12:13-15	
	MAJOR	Samson – 13:1-16:31	
Total Apostasy	Micah and the Danites commit idolatry – 17:1-18:31		17:1-21:25
	The Levite's concubine and the near destruction of Benjamin – 19:1-21:25		

Key Verses:

2:1-3; 2:10-23; “God raised up a deliverer”; 6:6-10; 8:22-23; “Israel had no king, everyone did as he saw fit.”