
BOOK OVERVIEW

Judges

Author: possibly Samuel

Date: possibly about 1075 B.C.

Recipients: not indicated

Summary: what happens to a nation that refuses to obey God

Key word: evil (14 times), judge/judged/judgment (22 times)

Key verses: Judges 2:14–19

Notes:

The book covers about 300 years, from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson.

The book describes a cycle that is repeated many times: 1) the Israelites turn away from God, 2) God lets their enemies oppress them, 3) the Israelites cry out to God for deliverance, 4) God provides a deliverer, 5) the Israelites enjoy a measure of peace; then, the cycle is repeated.

That “every man did that which was right in his own eyes,” explains the tragedies we witness in the book of Judges. (Judges 17:6)

Judges should be a warning concerning how easy it is to fall away from God.

The book describes thirteen judges and prepares the way for a king. Samuel, although a prophet, followed Samson, and was the last of the judges.

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