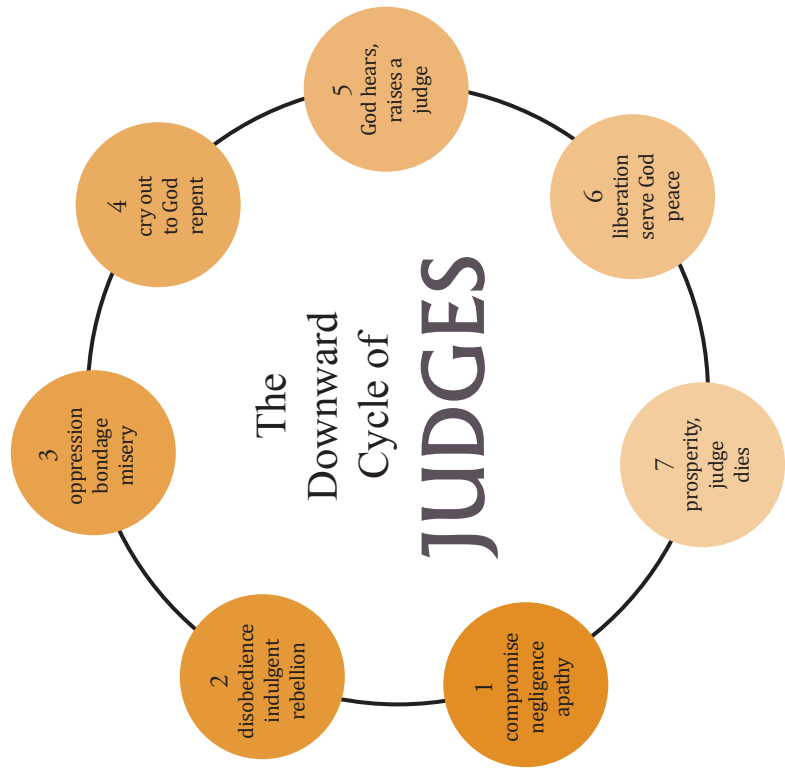


JUDGES – 300 to 400 years

The Layout of the Book of JUDGES

- Othniel** 3:7-11 Caleb's nephew defeats Mesopotamia
- Ehud** 3:12-30 Left-handed Benjamite buried dagger in the belly of Eglon, king of Moab
- Shamgar** 3:31 Killed 600 Philistines with an ox-goad
- Deborah** 4-5 Worked with Barak Jael provides a warm glass of milk before killing Sisera, Canaanite captain
- Gideon** 6-8 Reduces army to 300 men Defeats the Midianites
- Abimelech** 9 Gideon's son, not recognized as a judge, he's more enemy than deliverer!
- Tola** 10:1-2 5 verses for 45 years by 2 men seem like family men
- Jair** 10:3-5
- Jephthah** 10:6-12:7 Defeats the Ammonites Makes rash vow and gets his daughter in trouble
- Ibzan** 12:8-10 Some think Ibzan may be Boaz
- Elon** 12:11-12 7 verses for 3 men that seem like family men. Meanwhile, the womanizer, Samson, gets 4 chapters!
- Abdon** 12:13-15
- Samson** 13-16 Great feats of strength Delilah gives him a haircut Destroys Philistine temple of Dagon
- Eli Samuel** 1-7 Last and transitional judge.



Prologue
Judges 1:1 - 3:6

Accounts of
the Judges
Judges 3:7 - 16:31

Epilogue
Judges 17-21

In the end, the Lord withdrew His restraining hand and the nation began destroying itself

Week Twelve Reading Plan

- 2:6-3:31 Time of the Judges Begins
- 4:1-24 Girl Power!
- 6:1-7:25 How Can I be Sure?
- 11:2-12:7 Jephthah Victory & Sorrow
- Ruth 1-2 Love of Two Women
- Ruth 3-4 Love Stories
- Judges 16:1-31 Ladies' Man

**Week 12: A Few Good Men....and Women
(Judges; Book of Ruth)**

The Book of Judges is the seventh book of the Bible and takes place between the 14th and 11th century BCE. These are the years between the conquest of Canaan (the Promised Land) by Joshua and the formation of the first Kingdom of Israel (c. 1050 BCE). During this 300-400 year period, the 12 Israelite Tribes formed a loose confederation. There was no centralized government. Rather, “in those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (17:6; 21:25).

During this time of anarchy, God appointed a series of leaders—or judges—to bring salvation to His disobedient children. The book of Judges records the circumstances of thirteen such judges. (Eli and Samuel, recorded in 1 Samuel, complete the list of the judges.)

The Book of Judges should have been a continuation of the success of Joshua. Instead, Israel suffered a series of cycles from faith to failure. The cycles actually represent a downward spiral—each cycle being progressively worse than the one before. Judges 2:11-19 serves as the thesis of the Book of Judges contents!

The recurring sin/salvation cycle of Judges can be summarized as:

- 1) SIN—the people did evil against God and humanity;
- 2) SERVITUDE—God allows oppressors to overcome His people;
- 3) SORROW—the people repent of their cruelty and cry out to God;
- 4) SALVATION—God sends a judge to deliver them.

The last four chapters describe such degradation and apostasy, that I dared not include it in our reading this week. And it seems as if the compiler of the canon agreed, as Ruth is like a soap to cleanse us from the mind-defilement of Judges.

RUTH – Redemption

The Book of Ruth is named after its central figure, Ruth from the country of Moab. She is the great-grandmother of King David and according to the Gospel of Matthew, an ancestress of Jesus. The book tells of Ruth accepting Yahweh as her God and His people as her own. The book is rich and variegated but the top three themes seem to be Redemption, *Hesed*—or lovingkindness, and God’s inclusiveness.

<p>1 NAOMI EMPTY</p> <p>Famine in Bethlehem</p> <p>Elimelech, Naomi & sons, moves to Moab</p> <p>Boys marry Moabite women (frowned upon)</p> <p>75% of family dies</p> <p>Three widows left</p>	<p>1-2 RUTH’S DEVOTION</p> <p>Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem</p> <p>Naomi urges daughter-in-laws to remain in Moab</p> <p>Ruth’s declaration of covenant love</p> <p>Ruth gleanes in the fields and meets Boaz</p>	<p>3 RUTH & BOAZ</p> <p>Naomi becomes a match-maker</p> <p>Ruth’s daring Sadie Hawkin’s proposal</p> <p>Lawfully, Boaz provides for Ruth and Naomi</p>	<p>4 NAOMI FULL</p> <p>Boaz follows the rules of tradition</p> <p>Boaz marries Ruth</p> <p>Obed is born to Ruth and Boaz (and Naomi!)</p> <p>David was descended from Ruth and Boaz</p>
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Thirteen Judges of the Book of Judges

Judge & Tribe	References	Oppressor	Years Oppressed	Years of Rest	Major Events
OTHNIEL (Judah), Son of Kenaz who is the younger brother of Caleb	1:11-15; 3:1-11; Josh. 15:16-19; 1 Chr. 4:13	Cushan-Rishathaim King of Mesopotamia	8 years (3:8)	40 years (3:11)	Nephew of Caleb (3:11); won Caleb's daughter after capture of Kirjath-Sepher (Josh. 15:13-19)
EHUD (Benjamin), Son of Gera	3:12 - 4:1	Eglon, King of Moab; Ammonites; Amalekites	18 years (3:14)	80 years (3:30)	Left-handed man who slew Eglon, the fat king of Moab; Moab is a picture of the flesh
SHAMGAR (Naphtali) Son of Anath	3:31; 5:6	Philistines (3:31)			Slew 600 Philistines with an ox-goad (3:31)
DEBORAH (Ephraim) & BARAK (Naphtali) Son of Abinoam	4:1 - 5:31; Heb. 11:32	Jabin, King of Canaan (4:2); Captain Sisera	20 years (4:3)	40 years (5:31)	Deb was a prophetess; Jael slew Sisera; Barak in the "heroes of faith"
GIDEON (Manasseh) Son of Joash; also called JERUBAAL (6:32); Jerubbesheth (2 Sam. 11:21)	6:1 - 8:35; 2 Sam. 11:21; Heb. 11:32	Midianites; Amalekites; People of the East; (6:1, 3, 33; 7:12)	7 years (6:1)	40 years (8:28)	Destroyed idol altars; Put out fleece twice for a sign; 300 men for an army; Won battle with water pitchers & torches; Made gold ephod
ABIMELECH (Manasseh) Son of Gideon	8:33 - 9:57; 2 Sam. 11:21	Civil War	Ruled over Israel 3 years	Ruled over Israel 3 years	Killed all his brothers; Ruined Shechem; Woman drops millstone on him
TOLA (Issachar) Son of Puah	10:1-2			23 years (10:2)	Maybe from a leading family of Issachar (Gen. 46:13)
JAIR (Gilead-Manasseh)	10:3-5			22 years (10:3)	He had 30 sons who were itinerant judges
JEPHTHAH (Gilead-Manasseh) Son of Gilead by a harlot	10:6 - 12:7; Heb. 11:32	Philistines; Ammonites; Civil war w/ Ephraimites	18 years (10:8)	6 years (10:8)	Hated by brothers; Brothers beg for help; Subdues Ammonites; Foolish vow; civil war
IBZAN (Judah or Zebulun) Jos. 19:15	12:8-11			7 years (12:4)	Had 30 sons & 30 daughters; Tradition says he is Boaz
ELON (Zebulun)	12:11-12			10 years	Buried at Aijalon in Zebulun
ABDON (Ephraim) Son of Hillel (12:15)	12:13-15			8 years (12:14)	40 sons, 30 grandsons who rode and judged
SAMSON (Dan) Son of Manaah (13:6)	13:1 - 16:31; Heb. 11:32	Philistines	40 years (13:1)	20 years (15:20; 16:31)	Special birth; Consecrated; Great feats of strength; Delilah cuts his hair; Kills more in death than in life