

Judges 1-9

Ch 1

Theme – Israel begins displacing the people in the land, starting with Judah; Benjamin does not drive out Jebusites; sons of Joseph start to drive out Canaanites, but neglect to complete the charge (along with Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali)

Ch 2

Theme – God confronts Israel over their disobedience; reference point of the faithful of Israel during the time of Joshua and the leaders who served with him; the people forsook the Lord; God raises up judges to deliver Israel

Ch 3

Theme – Purpose of why God left some of the people groups in Promised Land; the identity of those groups; Othniel (judge #1) liberates Israel from Mesopotamians; Ehud (judge #2) liberates Israel from Moabites; Shamgar (judge #3) strikes down the Philistines

Ch 4

Theme – Deborah (judge #4) judges Israel and is part of the liberation of Israel from the oppression of the Canaanites

Ch 5

Theme – The Song of Deborah and Barak

Ch 6

Theme – Israel is oppressed by Midian; Gideon (judge #5) is called; Yahweh Shalom; Gideon tears down altar for Baal; fleece is laid before the Lord

Ch 7

Theme – Israel’s army whittled down to 300 soldiers; Gideon and servant overhear the fear of the Miditanites; Gideon and the 300 defeat the army made up of the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the sons of the East

Ch 8

Theme – Men of Ephraim contend with Gideon; Gideon asks for support from Succoth and Penuel, who refuse; Gideon captures Midian kings, Zebah and Zalmunna; Gideon makes an ephod; Gideon passes away and Israel forgets about the Lord

Ch 9

Theme – Abimelech (son of Gideon through his concubine) becomes leader of Shechem and kills all his brothers but one; Parable of Jotham; Abimelech withstands the rebellion of Gaal; Abimelech destroys Shechem and burns down the Tower of Shechem; attacks the city of Thebez (possibly a vassal city of Shechem); an upper millstone is dropped on the head of Abimelech
