

## Judges - “God’s Amazing Grace”

**From Whom:** No author is named in the book, but the Jewish Talmud identifies Samuel, a key prophet and last of the judges who lived at the time these events took place and could have personally summed up the era.

**To Whom:** It is a historical account of the nation from the death of Joshua to Samuel, the last of the judges and the first of the prophets (about 350 years). It also provides Israel with a moral lesson to remember. A four-part sequence repeatedly occurred in this phase of Israel’s history:

- 1) Israel’s departure from God;
- 2) God’s chastisement in permitting military defeat and servitude;
- 3) Israel’s prayer pleading for deliverance; and
- 4) God raising up “judges,” either civil or local military champions who led in fending off the oppressors.

**What/ Theme:** The *amazing grace of God* in recovering and restoring a backsliding nation. The book bears the fitting name “Judges,” which refers to unique leaders God gave to His people for preservation against their enemies (**Judges 2:16–19**).

“And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge...” **Judges 2:18 - NKJV**

The last verse of **Judges 21:25**, sadly sums up the account:

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

**Where/ Notable People:** There are fourteen judges, six of them military judges (Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson).

**Outline:** The Outline is designed around the 7 periods of sin to salvation.

### **1) Introduction and Summary - The Disobedience of Israel (1:1–3:6)**

- a) Incomplete Conquest over the Canaanites (**1:1–3:6**)
- b) The Decline and Judgment of Israel (**2:1–3:6**)

### **2) A Selected History of the Judges - The Deliverance of Israel (3:7–16:31)**

- a) **First Period:** Othniel vs. Mesopotamians (**3:7–11**)

- b) **Second Period:** Ehud and Shamgar vs. Moabites (**3:12–31**)
- c) **Third Period:** Deborah vs. Canaanites (**4:1–5:31**)
- d) **Fourth Period:** Gideon vs. Midianites (**6:1–8:32**)
- e) **Fifth Period:** Tola and Jair vs. Abimelech's Effects (**8:33–10:5**)
- f) **Sixth Period:** Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon vs. Philistines and Ammonites (**10:6–12:15**)
- g) **Seventh Period:** Samson vs. Philistines (**13:1–16:31**)

### 3) Epilogue - The Dereliction of Israel (**17:1–21:25**)

- a) The Idolatry of Micah and the Danites (**17:1–18:31**)
- b) The Crime at Gibeah and War Against Benjamin (**19:1–21:25**)

JUDGES AT A GLANCE											
Focus	Deterioration		Deliverance						Depravity		
Reference	1:1 — 2:1 — 3:5 — 4:1 — 6:1 — 10:6 — 12:8 — 13:1 — 17:1 — 19:1 — 20:1 — 21:25										
Division	Israel Fails To Complete The Conquest	God Judges Israel	Southern Campaign	Northern Campaign (1st)	Central Campaign	Eastern Campaign	Northern Campaign (2nd)	Western Campaign	Sin Of Idolatry	Sin Of Immorality	Sin Of Civil War
Topic	Causes Of The Cycles		Curse Of The Cycles						Conditions During The Cycles		
	Living With The Canaanites		War With The Canaanites						Living Like The Canaanites		
Location	Canaan										
Time	c. 350 Years										

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