

JUDGES

EXPLAINED: Episode Summary



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PODCAST

1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Judges Well?

DATE: 1380-1060 BC: Joshua's Death - Life of Samuel

GENRE: *Historical:* Judges over 12 Tribes

AUTHOR: *Unknown:* Possibly Samuel

SETTING: *Canaan:* After Land Distributed

PURPOSE: *Deliverance:* God's Grace over Sin

AUDIENCE: *Israel:* Multiple Generations

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Judges Well?

Israel's History between Dividing the Land and Becoming a Nation

- Joshua has now died (no leader follows)
- Land Now Possessed by the Tribes
- Incomplete Conquest of Canaan
- Identity & Focus Now Shifts to Tribes

KEY VERSES

Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you."

- Judges 2:1-3

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Judges?

- Israel's Partial Obedience
- Forsaking Yahweh for Baal
- Spiritual Disunity of Israel
- Absence of Central Worship
- Supernatural Deliverance
- Spiritual Decline of Israel
- Kingship: Absence & Longing

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Judges?

CH 1-3: 1. The Incomplete Conquest of the Land

The consequences of not driving out the Canaanites

CH 3-16: 2. The Cycle and the Judges (Deliverers)

The repeating pattern of Israel's idolatry, judgment, repentance, deliverance and rest

CH 17-21: 3. Israel's Depraved & Desperate Times

The accounts of idolatry and violence that illustrate the shameful immorality of Israel



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Judges?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-3: 1. THE INCOMPLETE CONQUEST OF THE LAND

The consequences of not driving out the Canaanites

CH 1-2: The Problem Exposed

Israel chose not to drive out the Canaanites as God commanded them to, enslaving them instead

CH 2-3: The Pattern Established

Introduction of the Cycle and its core elements: *Idolatry, Judgment, Repentance, Deliverance* and *Rest*

CH 3-16: 2. THE CYCLE AND THE JUDGES (DELIVERERS)

The repeating pattern of Israel's idolatry, judgment, repentance, deliverance and rest

CH 3: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar

Othniel sets the tone of the cycle
Ehud kills Eglon, king of Moab
Shamgar defeats Philistines

CH 9-10: Abimelech, Tola, Jair

Men noted for military victories with no acknowledgment of any good character

CH 12: Izban, Elon, Abdon

Anonymous men who judged Israel

CH 4-5: Deborah

God raises up a woman of faith amidst a cowardly people

CH 11: Jephthah

A rejected man who rises up to deliver Israel, makes a foolish vow and offers his daughter

CH 13-16: Samson

A man who God uniquely separates and empowers to defeat the Philistines, despite his idolatrous and lustful heart

Note: Final judges are priests who will be mentioned later in 1 Samuel

CH 17-21: 3. ISRAEL'S DEPRAVED & DESPERATE TIMES

The accounts of idolatry and violence that illustrate the shameful immorality of Israel

CH 17-18: Micah's Idolatry with Tribe

Depravity sets in and idolatry rises and runs rampant among the tribe of Dan

CH 19: Levites' Concubine Dismembered

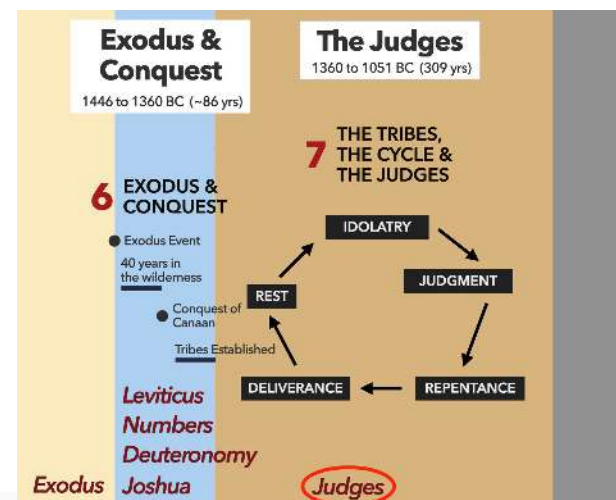
Horrific illustration of Israel's denial, division, and depravity against God

CH 20-21: Israel Reunites Against Wickedness of Benjamin

Vengeance against concubine's murder to purge the evil from Israel

5. HOW JUDGES POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the victories out of Judah
- In the Spirit of the Lord coming upon certain judges as deliverer
- The failure of the flesh to bring lasting life.
- In the reference to Tola, which means "worm" (referencing Psalm 22:6)



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