

Christ College: Judges Era



Review

Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God sees, God evaluates, God provides, God speaks about the future• Truths about man: Man given instructions/responsibilities
The fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God sees, God provides, God is merciful, God speaks about the future and makes promises• Truths about man: Man rebels and hides from God, man experiences guilt, shame, and fear, the way back to God is via sacrifice• Truth about the enemy: He speaks, he deceives,
Patriarchs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God makes and keeps His promises, God speaks about future events, God is blessing• Truths about man: man lives by sight and struggles to live by faith
Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God fulfills His promises, God delivers, God gives instructions (the future (ch. 17), blessings/cursings)• Truths about man: man struggles to trust God
Conquest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God keeps His promises about a people and about a land• Truths about man: man struggles with faith/unbelief
Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truths about God: God is just in punishing sin and He is merciful in forgiveness, God is illogical, God uses unusual people• Truths about man: left to himself man declines in spiritual health

Setting: Canaanite Oppression

- (1) The Lord chose to **punish Israel for her apostasy in turning to idolatry** (2:2, 20-21; cf. Josh. 23:1-13).
- (2) The Lord left the Canaanites in the land to **test** Israel's faithfulness to Himself (Jud. 2:22; 3:4).
- (3) The Lord left the Canaanites in the land to **give Israel experience in warfare**.
- (4) The Lord left the Canaanites in the land to **prevent the land from becoming a wilderness** (Deut 7:20-24) before Israel's population increased sufficiently to occupy the whole land.

Walvoord, John F.; Zuck, Roy B.; Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 1:384

Setting continued

The Israelites descended three steps in their cultural accommodation to paganism:

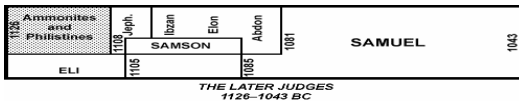
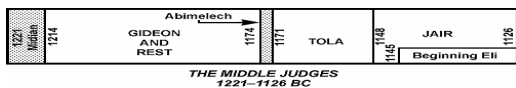
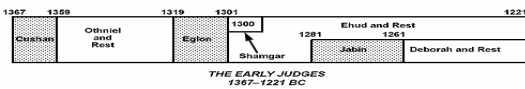
- they **lived among the Canaanites**,
- they **intermarried** with them, and
- they **served their gods**.

Characters

The Judges of Israel

Opressors	Years of Oppression	Judges	Years of Judging	References
Arameans	8	1. Othniel	40	Judges 3:7-11
Moabites	18	2. Ehud	80	Judges 3:12-30
Philistines	?	3. Shamgar	?	Judges 3:31
Canaanites	20	4. Deborah	40	Judges 4-5
Midianites	7	5. Gideon*	40	Judges 6-8
?	?	6. Tola	23	Judges 10:1-2
?	?	7. Jair	22	Judges 10:3-5
Ammonites	18	8. Jephthah	6	Judges 10:6 - 12:7
?	?	9. Ibzan	7	Judges 12:8-10
?	?	10. Elon	10	Judges 12:11-12
?	?	11. Abdon	8	Judges 12:13-15
Philistines	40	12. Samson	20	Judges 13-16

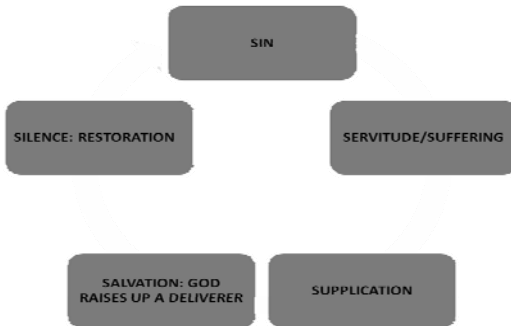
*Abimelech, Gideon's son (Jud. 9), though often considered a judge, is not included here because he usurped authority over Shechem and God did not appoint him as judge.



Judges in Judges

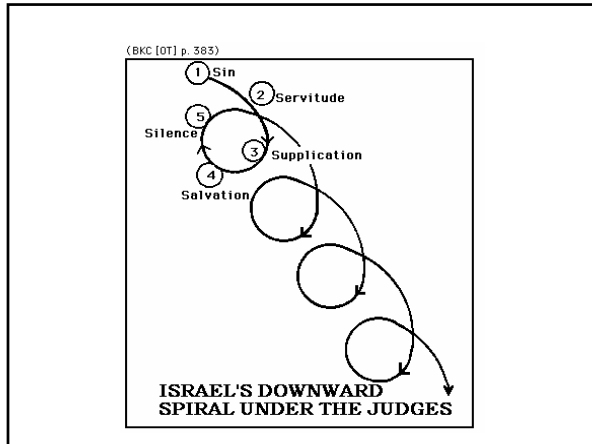
- Othniel – Caleb’s nephew
- Ehud – left-handed Benjamite/an assassin
- Shamgar – Gentile?
- Deborah – married woman
- Gideon – from an obscure family
- Tola – a man of Issachar
- Jair – had 30 sons (multiple wives)
- Jephthah – rash, son of a harlot
- Ibzan – had 30 sons/30 daughters (multiple wives)
- Elon – little detail
- Abdon – 40 sons/30 grandsons
- Samson – Nazarite from birth, born to a barren woman

Plot



ISRAEL’S CYCLE OF SIN - OTHNIEL

Sin	Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord	3:7
Servitude	God sold them into foreign domination	3:8
Supplication	Israel cried out to the Lord	3:9
Salvation	Deliverance was given through a judge	3:9–10
Silence	The land had peace	3:11
Sin	Israel returned to evil after the judge’s death	3:12



Conclusion

- Judges 17:6; 21:25 - "Everyone did what was right in his own sight" – a total disregard of the Law as seen in:
 - Sexual immorality and perversion
 - Levitical priesthood corrupted (Dan became a stronghold of idolatry led by Micah's priest)
 - Worship of idols
 - Anarchy and no sense of community
 - Injustice and no accountability
 - The extermination of all the men at Jabesh Gilead and the near extermination of the tribe of Benjamin

Table questions

- What are the marks of spiritual declension or servitude in our nation today?
- Who were the church "judges" or leaders raised up by God in the 20th century?

