

JUDGES

Summary Of Judges: In Joshua an obedient Israel conquered Canaan by trusting God. In Judges a disobedient, idolatrous Israel is defeated continually through rebellion against God. Written about 1030 B.C., probably by Samuel, Judges records 7 cycles of sin, bondage, and deliverance over 300 years (1400-1100 B.C.) Israel acts not like a theocracy under God, but like 12 independent tribes, fighting within and oppressed from without. God raises up judges to deliver and restore them to God, only to see the sin cycle resume. Israel will not become a united kingdom under God until Samuel and David. **Lesson:** *Judges gives the formula for failure: "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6).*

JUDGES 1-3

THE EARLY JUDGES

Chapter 1 Israel Continues The Conquest Of Canaan

Summary: God has commanded the total destruction of the Canaanites [Deut. 7:2-4]. If the Israelites would obey, life would be easier. They continue the conquest with some success (1-26). But they fail to complete it, leaving many Canaanites to trouble them in the future (27-36).

Lesson: *The conquest pictures sin-- partial victory brings future problems.*

Chapter 2 Israel Increases In Sin

Summary: The Angel of the Lord [Jesus] rebukes Israel for sin, refusing deliverance from her enemies (1-6). Joshua's death is recorded (7-10). Israel's unfaithfulness is described (11-23). Sin [11-13] leads to bondage [14-15]. God brings deliverance through judges [16], but Israel falls again into sin [17-19] and bondage [20-23]. **Lesson:** Through Jesus we can break the endless cycle of sin, bondage, and deliverance (Rom. 7:24-25).

Chapter 3 Israel's First 3 Judges are Othniel, Ehud, And Shamgar

Summary: Samuel names the Canaanite nations left in the land (1-6), and the first 3 judges, Othniel (7-11), Ehud (12-30), and Shamgar (31).

Lesson: *God raised up deliverers when Israel cried to Him. He will do the same for us. His deliverer's name is Jesus.*