

The Judges of Israel

Opressors	Years of Oppression	Judges	Years of Judging	References
Arameans	8	1. Othniel	40	<u>Jdg_3:7-11</u>
Moabites	18	2. Ehud	80	<u>Jdg_3:12-30</u>
Philistines	?	3. Shamgar	?	<u>Jdg_3:31</u>
Canaanites	20	4. Deborah	40	Judges 4-5
Midianites	?	5. Gideon	40	Judges 6-8
?	?	6. Tola	23	<u>Jdg_10:1-2</u>
?	?	7. Jair	22	<u>Jdg_10:3-5</u>
Ammonites	18	8. Jephthah	6	Judges 10:6-12:7
?	?	9. Ibzan	7	<u>Jdg_12:8-10</u>
?	?	10. Elon	10	<u>Jdg_12:11-12</u>
?	?	11. Abdon	8	<u>Jdg_12:13-15</u>
Philistines	40	12. Samson	20	Judges 13-16

Abimelech, Gideon's son (Jdg_9:1-57), though often considered a judge, is not included here because he usurped authority over Shechem and God did not appoint him as judge.

Source: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Ed., by Walvoord and Zuck.
 Commentator: F. Duane Lindsey.

The Angel of the Lord

(multiple handouts available from Pastor Dan, if interested)

The Angel of the Lord was not merely “an angel”; He was a theophany — an appearance of the second Person of the Trinity in visible and bodily form before the Incarnation. Prominent during the time of Moses (Exo_3:2-15; Num_22:22-35) and Joshua (Jos_5:13-15), this divine manifestation also appeared during the period of the Judges to Gideon (Jdg_6:11-24) and to the parents of Samson (Jdg_13:3-21). The Angel of the Lord was Deity for He was called Yahweh (e.g., Jos_5:13-15; Jdg_6:11-24; Zec_3:1-10) and God (e.g., Gen_32:24-32; Exo_3:2-4), and had divine attributes and prerogatives (cf. Gen_16:13; Gen_18:25; Gen_48:16). Yet this Messenger of the Lord was also distinct from Yahweh, thus indicating a plurality of Persons within the Godhead (cf. Num_20:16; Zec_1:12-13). New Testament allusions suggest that the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament was Jesus Christ (cf. Joh_12:41; 1Co_10:4; Joh_8:56; Heb_11:26). (Dr. Lindsey)

“Go the Whole Way” Judges 1:1 – 2:5

(Parentheses () are verses in Judges)

- First King of Israel: 1 Sam. 8:4-9
- Gideon declares the LORD the ruler: Jud. 8:22-23
- Judges after Judges: 1 Sam. 8:1-5
- “The judges of Israel were primarily military and civil leaders, with strictly judicial functions included as appropriate.” See Judges 4:5 (Dr. Lindsey).
- Book of Judges shows God bringing strength out of human weakness, like 1 Cor. 1:27-29 (William MacDonald).

1. Government of the people... (1:1-10)

Amorites: (Num. 13:29; cf. Jdg. 1:34-36; 3:5).

Jebusites driven from Jerusalem in time of David: 2 Sam. 5:6-7

2. Good leaders (1:11-15)

Caleb responsible for conquest of Hebron: Josh. 14-15

Othniel's capture of Kirjath Sepher earlier: Josh. 15:16-19

3. Go the whole way with the Lord (1:16-36)

Dr. Lindsey: The Kenites were a nomadic people associated with the Amalekites (cf. 1Sa_15:6) and Midianites (cf. Exo_18:1 with Jdg_1:16).

Bethel: Gen. 12:8, 28:10-22, 35:1-15

4. gods compete for our allegiance (2:1-5)

The Angel of the LORD (see other side)

Moses and Joshua both told about thorns in the side: Num. 33:55; Josh. 23:13

Deuteronomic Laws Broken in Book of Judges

Drive out Canaan's native inhabitants (Deut. 7:2 / Judges 1:3-36)

Destroy the Canaanite's high places of worship (Deut. 12:3 / Judges 2:1-6)

Deliberately teach each generation about the true God
 (Deut. 6:6-7 / Judges 2:7-12)

Do not intermarry with the Canaanites (Deut. 7:3-4 / Judges 3:5-8)

Do not do what is right in your own eyes (Deut. 12:8 / Judges 14:3)

Doing what is right in their own eyes: Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25