

JUDGES

1. TITLES:

- A. Judges = deliverers, saviours (Neh. 9:27)
- B. The Book of Failure Through Compromise

2. AUTHOR:

Unknown, but usually attributed to Samuel.

3. DATE:

- A. Covers approximately 400 years from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson.
- B. Possibly written between 1050 and 970 B.C.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Judge (d, s) - 21
- B. Evil - 14

Key Phrases:

- A. " the Spirit of the Lord came upon..." - 6
- B. "no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes" – 4

5. KEY VERSES: 2:10; 21:25

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To show the spiritual wanderings of Israel in Canaan.
- B. To show how Israel's compromise led to Israel's failure.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. Because of sin man is always prone to wander from God.
- B. Departing from God leads to servitude and oppression.
- C. God manifests His grace by raising up a saviour to bring man back to Himself.

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8. OUTLINE:

- I. Compromise in Conquest (Introduction) - Ch. 1:1-2:5
National Unfaithfulness
- II. Forsaking The Lord (History) - Ch. 2:6-16:10
National Servitudes
 - A. Relapses
 - B. Results
 - C. Recoveries
- III. Anarchy The Final Result (Appendix) - Ch. 17-21
National Corruption

9. SUMMARY:

This book depicts Israel's settling in the land and the special problems they confronted. It is a book of mixture as we find both victories and defeats, good and evil, revival and apostasy, unity and anarchy. There is a cycle that is repeated seven times in the book that is best summarised in Judges 2:11-19;

Departure from the Lord

Servitude to enemies

Supplication to the Lord

Saviour/Judge raised up

Return to the Lord

Though the book covers approximately 400 years of Israel's history, only 111 years were actually spent in servitudes. Though a book of failure, faith is seen in the ministry of the Judges (Heb. 11:32-24).

NOTE: The book of Judges is not written in strict chronological order, but events are grouped according to spiritual significance.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as our Judge-Deliverer-Saviour upon whom "the Spirit of the Lord came" bringing deliverance from servitude to sin and Satan.