



# Judges

**Old  
Testament**

β 7th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 1.99% of the verses in the Bible

β Samuel is thought to have written it.

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The fourteen ‘Judges’ that lead Israel at this time are a real mixed bunch, with some really well known (like Gideon, Deborah and Samson) and others who are fairly obscure. Some of these leaders (they’re more like local military leaders than judicial officials) aren’t particularly wonderful (just like the people). God puts them all into place for one main reason: mercy in spite of treason.

“Everyone did as they saw fit.” This phrase is repeated many times in this book. God’s chosen people decide to betray His covenant with them. They consider that their ways are better than God’s and so ignore what He had stated and do their own thing. This leads to neighbouring countries invading and oppressing them and then the

**Facts:** The era focussed on here takes us from Joshua’s death to the beginning of the Monarchy. Events are described that show Israel often fails to keep their covenant with God., but the LORD keeps repeatedly reaching out to them.

Israelites intensely cry out to God for mercy. This cycle is unfortunately repeated numerous times. God is forgiving again and again. God’s judgement on sin is certain. However, so is His love and restitution for those who repent. This is still true.

The Judges don’t lead the whole nation, but rather a few tribes. The tribes don’t always help each other if they’re in trouble. There is even a civil war in the latter chapters.

**Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.**