

Book of Judges

Why read the book of Judges? 1 Cor 10: 6-13 These things were written to encourage of to be obedient and to have faith. This is true of the entire Old Testament. Specifically, in Heb 11:32-34, Heb 12:1 several judges are mentioned as heroes of the faith. As part of the 'great cloud' of witnesses, their stories can help us deal with sin and be strengthened to persevere.

Who wrote the Book of Judges? It is presumed to be Samuel.

Why was the Book of Judges historically written? It brings the time from Joshua, the last leader of a unified Israel to Saul or David, the present leader of a unified Israel.

What can I get from reading the Book of Judges? The Book of Judges demonstrates God's compassion to his people. Regardless of sin, doubt, or circumstance, God is faithful to us – Isaiah 41:10. Nothing can separate us from the love of God – Rom 8: 38-39.

I. Claiming God's Promises becomes difficult.

After Joshua, claiming the Promised Land isn't completely successful. Why? Their failure is attributed to their lack of obedience and lack of faith.

Judah and Simeon appear to do well at first – Judges 1:1 – 19a. But then

Lack of Faith:

Compare Joshua 17:16-18 to Judges 1:19

Joshua is speaking to the Tribe of Joseph, who do, in fact, take their allotment (Judges 1:22-25).

Lack of obedience:

Did not drive the people out of the land: Compare Deut 7:1-8 to Judges 1:21, 1:27-35, 2:1-5

Did not pass on the knowledge of God to their children: Compare Deut 6:1-9 to Judges 2:10-11

II. The Cycle of Sin

The Cycle is explained - Judges 2:10 – 2:19,3:6

This vicious cycle can be shown in four stages:

- The people drift from God and sin
- The people are defeated by their enemies
- The people cry out in their pain and seek God
- The people are delivered by a judge

Although certain individuals rise up and deliver Israel, God is still the hero of these stories. He has compassion on the suffering of his people and always delivers them.

III. God Uses The Consequences of Their Actions as a Test

- Prov. 17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests hearts.
- Isa. 48:10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.
- James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have {its} perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

IV. Examples of Cycles.

- Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar