

JUDGES

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To show that God's judgment against sin is certain, and His forgiveness of sin and restoration to relationship are just as certain for those who repent.

Author

Possibly Samuel.

Date

Judges was written c.1020 BC after the establishment of the monarchy.

Audience

The people of Israel during their times of rebellion against Yahweh.

Setting

Yahweh had helped the Israelites conquer Canaan, but they were in danger of losing this promised land because their pagan neighbors caused them to compromise their convictions and, thus, they disobeyed God.

Special Features

Records Israel's first civil war. The 12 Cycles of Discipline from Yahweh: Rebellion, Oppression, Repentance, then Deliverance when He raises up a Judge who overthrows the oppressors and restores peace to Israel.



Key Verses

"And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger ... and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. ... Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them." (2:11-16 ESV)

Key People

Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah.

Key Places

Bokim, Jericho, Hazor, Hill of Morah, Shechem, land of Ammon, Timnah, valley of Sorek, Gaza, hill country of Ephraim, Gibeah, Mizpah.