

## Judges: A People in Need of a King<sup>1</sup>

JUDGE	TRIBE	OPPRESSOR	REST	TOTAL	
<b>Othniel</b> (3:7-11)	Judah	Mesopotamians 8 yrs (3:8)	40 years (3:11)	48 yrs	First Judge; Caleb's Nephew (Judges 1:13) Continuity with the previous generation
<b>Ehud</b> (3:12-30)	Benjamin	Moabites 18 yrs (3:14)	80 yrs (3:30)	98 yrs	Left-handed man – From the tribe of Benjamin
<b>Shamgar</b> (3:31)		Philistines			Killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad – 1 verse
<b>Deborah</b> (4:1-5:31)	Ephraim	Canaanites 20 yrs (4:3)	40 yrs (5:31)	60 yrs	The only female judge; prophetess; partnered with Barak in warfare; composes a song; her leadership is an indictment against Israel (cf. Isa 3:12); <b>Jael</b>
<b>Gideon</b> (6:1-8:35)	Manasseh	Midianites 7 yrs (6:1)	40 yrs (8:28)	47 yrs	In spite of Gideon's weak faith (6:17; 6:36ff), God worked mightily thru him; Troop whittled from 32k to 300; refuses the kingship (8:22-28); <b>Abimelech, Gideon's son, usurps authority (ch. 9)</b>
<b>Tola</b> (10:1-2)	Issachar		23 yrs (10:2)	23 yrs	
<b>Jair</b> (10:3-5)	Gilead-Manasseh		22 yrs (10:3)	22 yrs	30 sons, 30 donkeys, 30 cities ~ contra Jephthah
<b>Jephthah</b> (10:6-12:7)	Gilead-Manasseh	Ammonites	24 yrs (10:8; 12:7)	24 yrs	Son of a prostitute, hated by his brothers; Recounts the history of Israel (10:15-28) but makes a pagan vow to sacrifice his daughter ~ Curse?
<b>Ibzan</b> (12:8-10)	Judah		7 yrs (12:9)	7 yrs	30 sons, 30 daughters
<b>Elon</b> (12:11-12)	Zebulun		10 yrs (12:11)	10 yrs	
<b>Abdon</b> (12:13-15)	Ephraim		8 yrs (12:14)	8 yrs	40 sons, 30 grandsons, 70 donkeys
<b>Samson</b> (13:1-16:31)	Dan	Philistines 40 yrs (13:1)	20 yrs (16:31)	60 yrs	Son of promise (13:3); Godly parents (13:1ff); Violent warrior (14:19; 15:14-15); disobedient towards the law (14:2, 5-9); Self-confident womanizer (daughter of Timnah, prostitute, Delilah); powerful but unfaithful until his prayer and death (16:23-31)
<b>13 Judges</b>	<b>Tribal</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Brought Rest</b>	<b>410 yrs<sup>2</sup></b>	

<sup>1</sup>Chart adapted from the ESV Study Bible.

<sup>2</sup>The actual number of years is less than 410, because “many of the episodes in Judges overlap each other, unfolding in different parts of the land. This overlapping of periods is not a phenomenon unique to Israel” (ESV Study Bible, p. 437). It was practiced by other nations in the ancient Near East.