

## Finish the Job: Judges 1

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Water of Life Class

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### Introduction

#### Who Wrote Judges?

Samuel is the most likely candidate for writing Judges and Ruth.

#### When Was Judges Written?

1. After Israel had a king (*In those days Israel had no king*: Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25) Saul (Israel's first king) was crowned in 1051 BC. The book was written after that,
  
2. Before David conquered Jerusalem and made it his capital [2 Sam 5:6f] in 1004 BC. Judges 1:21 says: *To this day the Jebusites live there* [Jerusalem].

Samuel died after 1025 BC. I date his writing of Judges between 1040 and 1025 BC.

#### Chronological Issues in the Book of Judges

The era of the judges began about 1350 BC.

The era of the judges ended in 1051 BC (when Saul became king).

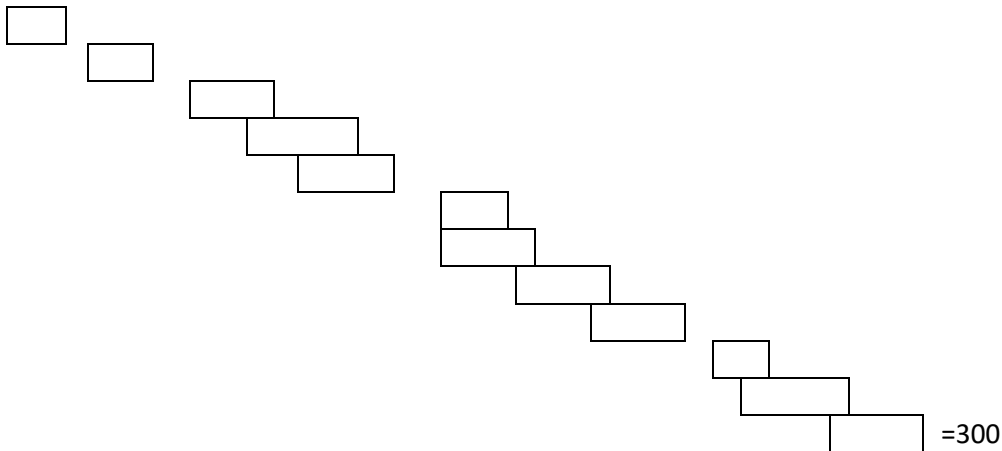
The era of the judges lasted about 300 years (1351 – 1051 = 300).

One may wonder how to fit the 407+ years mentioned in the book (below), but the

REFERENCE	OPPRESSOR	YEARS	REF.	JUDGE/REST	REGION	YEARS	REF.	TOTALS
3:7-11	Arameans	8	3:8	Othniel	Judah	40	3:11	48
3:12-30	Moabites	18	3:14	Ehud	Benjamin	80	3:30	98
3:31	Philistines	?		Shamgar	Judah?	?		?
4:1-5:31	Canaanites	20	4:3	Deborah	North	40	5:31	60
6:1-8:28	Midianites	7	6:1	Gideon	Manasseh	40	8:28	47
10:1-2	?	?		Tola	Ephraim	23	10:2	23+
10:3-5	?	?		Jair	Gilead	22	10:3	22+
10:6-12:7	Ammonites	18	10:8	Jephthah	Gilead	6	12:7	24
12:8-10	?	?		Ibzan	Judah	7	12:9	7+
12:11-12	?	?		Elon	Zebulun	10	12:11	10+
12:13-15	?	?		Abdon	Ephraim	8	12:14	8+
13:1-15:20	Philistines	40	13:1	Samson	Dan	20	15:20	60
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>111</b>		<b>+</b>		<b>296 =</b>		<b>407+</b>

How do 407+ years fit into a 300-year period?

Othn.	Ehud	Sham.	Debo.	Gide.	Tola	Jair	Jeph.	Ibzan	Elon	Abdon	Sams.	
48	98	?	60	47	23+	22+	24	7+	10+	*+	60	=407+



Judges has a general sequence. Hence, the staircase-line depiction of overlaps and gaps. We cannot pinpoint which judgeships overlapped with the following one and which ones were followed by a gap.

We do know that Jephthah was a judge around 1106 BC, because he referred to Israel's occupation of Gilead as happening 300 years earlier (1406 BC) in Judges 11:26.

### The Book of Judges in Relation to Joshua

### Judges Were Not Kings; what were they?

### Outline of the Book

**Background from the Time of Joshua (1:1–2:9)**

**Cases Illustrating Actions of Israel's Judges (2:10–16:31)**

**Apostasy during the Times of the Judges (17:1–21:25)**

## Exposition

### **The Title of the Book: *After Joshua Had Died* (1:1a)**

1:1b-2:8 occurred during Joshua's lifetime, amplifying on the book of Joshua

Joshua 24:29 also records Joshua's death at age 110 (ca. 1360 BC)

Joshua 24:31 speaks of the elders who followed

The elders were <20 in 1444 BC at Kadesh Barnea (Num 13:2; 14:29)

If an elder born in 1424 BC died at 110, his death would be in 1354 BC

Remember, we date the start of Judges (post-elders) around 1350 BC

Take-away 1: Judges 1:1b-2:9 fits within the time of Joshua.

Take-away 2: Judges 2:10 starts the period of the Judges (post-elders).

### **Judah and Simeon Make an Alliance (1:1b-3)**

### **Judah and Simeon Victorious against Bezek (1:4-7)**

### **Judah and Simeon Defeat Jerusalem [Jebus] (1:8)**

They did not displace the Jebusites permanently, cf. 1:21. May have defeated southern suburbs (that are within Judah). Jerusalem proper is within Benjamin.

### **Judah and Simeon Victorious in the South and West (1:9-20)**

1 The Negev and the western foothills [Shephelah] (1:9)

2 Hebron (1:10). Cf. Joshua 15:14

3 Debir (1:11-15)  
Who is Caleb's younger brother?

4 Arad (1:16)

5 Hormah (1:17)

6 Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron (1:18)

7 Hill country [Shephelah] versus the lowlands (1:19)

8 Giving of Hebron to Caleb (1:20). Cf. Num 14:24; Deut 1:36; Josh 14:9; 15:3

**Benjamin Did Not Take Jerusalem (1:21)**

**Ephraim and Manasseh [House of Joseph] Take Bethel (1:22-26)**

**Manasseh Fails to Take Beth Shan, Ibleam, Taanach, Megiddo, and Dor (1:27-28)**

**Ephraim Fails to Take Gezer (1:29)**

**Zebulun Did Not Displace the Inhabitants of Kitron or Nahalol (1:30)**

**Asher Did Not Displace the Inhabitants of Cities in its Land (1:31-32)**

**Naphtali Did not Displace the Inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath (1:33)**

**The Amorites Confined Dan to the hill country (1:34-36)**

**Conclusion**