**Judges**

A few things to keep in mind as you read this book. First, it isn’t in chronological order. Second, the judges ruled portions of Israel but are not to be thought of as king of the whole country. The judges often oversaw certain areas of the country.

Another key thing to remember while readings this book is while the Israelites were now occupying the Promised Land, there were cities of other nations still present. Here is why.

**A. *Exodus 23:28-30:*** *And I will send hornets[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2023&version=ESV#fen-ESV-2173b)*] before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.****29****I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you.****30****Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.*

If all of those nations were completely driven out, the Israelites would be overrun by the wild animals. They didn’t need to worry. If they were faithful to God and kept the covenant with Him, these nations would eventually be driven out. Did they? ***Judges 2:1-3:*** *Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you,****2****and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?****3****So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”*

**B. *Judges 3:1-3:****Now these are the nations that the Lord left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan.****2****It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before.*

Another reason some of those other nations were not completely removed was so Israel could learn how to fight. This would strengthen them and continue to teach them to work together. Traits we will not see throughout this book.

Sadly, Israel will face the same fate as these nations that were driven out before them: ***2 Kings 17:7–13:*** *And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. 9 And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 11 and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the Lord carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger, 12 and they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this.” 13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”*

**Chapter 2: :** Verse 10: This is why it is crucial to raise up our kids to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If we don’t, our kids will fall away. This also tells us the Israelites did not follow ***Deuteronomy 6:4-7****: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.****5****You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.****6****And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.****7****You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

**Chapter 5:** Verse 4: How was Israel going to win a battle against an army that had 900 chariots? This verse gives us a big clue on how God did this. A storm can drop a lot of water and when that happens there is a lot of mud that can bog down the wheels of a chariot and render them useless.

**Chapter 9:** Verse 22: Not king over all of Israel, just those in that region.

**Chapter 12:** Verses 1-6: The first recorded civil war in Israel. The Ephraimites against the Gadites (Gilead was in Gad).

**Chapter 16:** Verse 20: One of the saddest comments in the scriptures. He did not know the Lord had left him.

**Chapter 17:** Verse 10: So many things wrong in this chapter. Here in verse 10 might be something many miss. Micah was going to provide food for the Levite. God was the one who was going to provide for the Levites but now this priest was getting provisions from somewhere else.

**Chapter 18:**

**-** Verse 1: The people of Dan were given their land allotment. They had not completely taken all of the lang that they were allotted so they are looking elsewhere for land. They were in essence giving up the land God had set apart for them and rejecting God in the process. Yet, God did try to help them. Sampson was a Danite (13:2).

- Verse 6: Liar! God would never approve a tribe giving up their inheritance.

**Chapter 19:** This chapter will remind you of the account of Sodom and Gomorrah. There is no good reason for the things you will read in this chapter. This account shows how sinful things have gotten in Israel.

**Chapter 21**

Again, there is so much wrong in this chapter. Civil wars and kidnapping. This again shows how depraved the people had become. The last verse in the chapter and the book says it well: ***Judges 21:25:*** *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Interesting fact: The first King of Israel was King Saul. King Saul was a Benjamite. He would be a product of these events.