

An Outline of Judges

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- I. Double introduction (1:1–3:6)
 - A. Part 1: Evaluation of present generation (1:1–2:5)
 1. Qualified victories (1:1–2:6)
 2. Partial failures (1:27–3:6)
 3. Confrontation: the angel of the Lord points out their disobedience at the place of weeping (2:1–5)
 - B. Part 2: Forecast of future generations (2:6–3:6)
 1. The new generation did not know the Lord (2:6–10).
 2. The new generations will repeatedly fail but then be delivered (2:11–23).
 3. The new generations will be tested and will fall to the surrounding nations (3:1–6).
- II. The repeated cycle: sin, punishment, repentance, and deliverance (3:7–16:31)
 - A. Group 1—Othniel, Ehud, and Deborah (3:7–5:31)
 1. The deliverance of Othniel (3:7–11)
 2. The deliverance of Ehud (3:12–31)
 - a. Punishment by the Amorites (12–14)
 - b. Deliverance by Ehud (15–30)
 - c. Continued success under Shamgar (31)
 3. The deliverance of Deborah (4:1–5:31)
 - a. Punishment by the Canaanites (4:1–3)
 - b. Deliverance by Deborah and Barak (4:4–24)
 - c. The song of Deborah and Barak (5:1–31)
 - B. Group 2—Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson (6:1–16:31)
 1. The deliverance of Gideon (6:1–10:5)
 - a. Affliction by the Midianites (6:1–6)
 - b. Confrontation by an unnamed prophet (6:7–10)
 - c. Rise of Gideon (6:11–40)
 - d. Victory of Gideon (7:1–8:21)
 - e. Fall of Gideon (8:22–9:57)
 - 1) His foolish decision (8:22–28)
 - 2) His death (8:29–32)
 - 3) His foolish son, Abimelech (9:1–57)
 2. The deliverance of Jephthah (10:6–12:15)
 - a. Oppression by the Philistines and Amorites (10:6–9)
 - b. Repentance of Israel (10:10–16)
 - c. Search for a leader results in an unlikely deliverer—Jephthah, the son of a prostitute (10:17–11:11)
 - d. Jephthah reasons with the Amorites (11:12–28)
 - e. Jephthah’s daughter is killed because of a rash vow (11:29–40)
 - f. Civil war with the men of Ephraim (12:1–7)
 - g. Other secondary judges rule Israel (12:8–15)
 - 1) Ibzan (8–10)



- 2) Elon (11–12)
- 3) Abdon (13–15)
- 3. The deliverance of Samson (13–16)
 - a. Oppression by the Philistines (13:1)
 - b. Birth of a new deliverer (13:2–25)
 - c. Samson’s bad experiences (14:1–16:31)
 - 1) His betrothed Philistine wife is given to another man (14:1–20).
 - 2) He kills 1,000 Philistines with a donkey’s jawbone (15:1–20).
 - 3) He narrowly escapes a trap in Gaza (16:1–3).
 - 4) He is seduced by Delilah, enslaved, and tortured by the Philistines (16:4–22).
 - 5) He kills Philistine lords in a suicide mission as they offer sacrifice to Dagon (16:23–31).
- III. Double conclusion (17–21)
 - A. Story 1—Religious corruption: Micah, the silver idol, and the men of Dan (17–18)
 - B. Story 2—Moral corruption: Benjamite brutality, civil war, and tribal cleansing (19–21)

