# Judges

**Bible Order:** 7 of 66 **Old Testament:** 7 of 39

**Single Word Summary:** Defeat

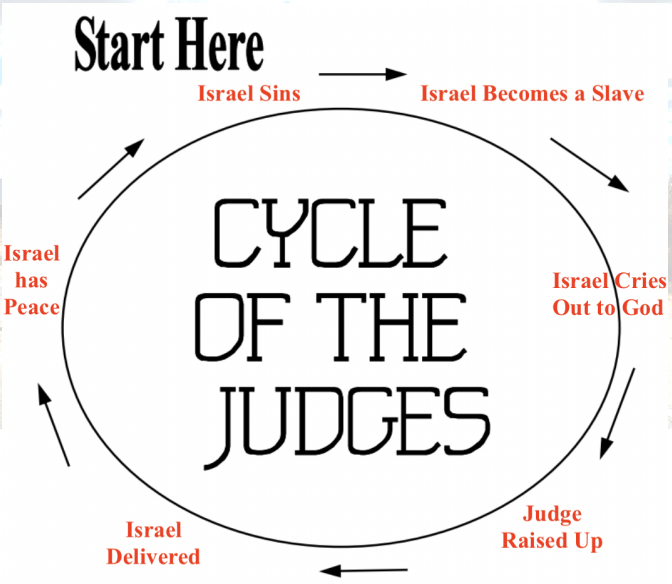
## Book Outline:

332 Years of Defeat in the Land (there is only one point in this outline)

## Context & Notes:

The book of Judges is a book of failure and misery. The spotlight of the book is on a blessed people's miserable failures.

But it also is a book about God's great and abiding mercy. There is a cycle found throughout the book of Judges. (We call it, the Cycle of the Judges.)




For 300 years this cycle repeated itself…just like the life of many Christ-followers. The difference between the book of Joshua (victory) and Judges (defeat) is a choice which we all mos

The full cycle is found some six times in the book of Judges. In other places, we only have a partial cycle detailed, although the full cycle may have occurred.

There are twelve judges listed. The era of the Judges begins in Joshua 24 and ends in 1 Samuel 7.

**Devotional Reading:** Judges 2:8-19, 6:11-23 and 21:25

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# Cycle of the Judges

| Step | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Israel Sins* | *Israel Becomes Slaves* | *Israel Cries Out To God* | *Judge Raised Up* | *Israel Delivered* | *Israel Has Peace* | *Israel Sins* |
| **Synopsis** | 2:11-13 | 2:14 | 2:18 | 2:15-17 | 2:18 | n/a | |
| **1. Othniel** *3:1-11* | 3:5-7 | 3:7-8 | 3:9 | 3:9 | 3:10 | 3:11 | |
| **2. Ehud** *3:12-30* | 3:12 | 3:13 | 3:15 | 3:15 | 3:16-29 | 3:30 | |
| **3. Shamgar** *3:31* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3:31 | n/a | n/a | |
| **4. Deborah** *4-5* | 4:1 | 4:2 | 4:3 | 4:4-5 | 4:6-24 | 5:31 | |
| **5. Gideon** *6-8* | 6:1a | 6:1b-6 | 6:7 | 6:8-40 | 7-8:27 | 7:28 | |
| **6. Abimelech** *9* | 8:33-35 | n/a | n/a | 9:22 | n/a | n/a | |
| **7. Tola** *10:1-2* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10:1-2 | n/a | n/a | |
| **8. Jair** *10:3-5* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10:3-5 | n/a | n/a | |
| **9. Jephthah** *10:6-12:7* | 10:6 | 10:7-9 | 10:10-17 | 11:1 | 11:33 | n/a | |
| **10. Ibzan** *12:8-10* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 12:8-10 | n/a | n/a | |
| **11. Elon** *12:11-12* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 12:11-12 | n/a | n/a | |
| **12. Abdon** *12:13-15* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 12:13-15 | n/a | n/a | |
| **13:. Samson** *13-16* | 13:1a | 13:1b | n/a | 13:5 | n/a | n/a | |
| **14. Eli** *1 Samuel 1-4* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 Sam 4:18 | n/a | n/a | |
| **15. Samuel** *1 Samuel 5-7 (8-25)* | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 Sam 7:15 | n/a | n/a | |



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# Ruth

**Bible Order:** 8 of 66 **Old Testament:** 8 of 39

**Single Word Summary:** Redemption

## Book Outline:

The Decision to follow (chapter 1)

The Provision of food (chapter 2)

The Encounter with Boaz (chapter 3)

The Redemption (chapter 4)

## Context & Notes:

Ruth is a book about redemption. It takes place during the period of the Judges, possibly during the middle of the period of the Judges.

The book is the story of one woman, separated from the blessings of Israel, who finds herself in the lineage of David and of Christ.

Ruth was a Moabitess who married an Israelite who died. She chooses to go with her mother-in-law to Israel, Bethlehem, and there she and her mother-in-law are redeemed by an aged man, Boaz, from whom she receives a son.

Whereas the book of Judges is about Defeat, Ruth is an illustration of the goodness of God.

## Devotional Reading

Ruth 1

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