Interesting Facts About Judges

MEANING: Judges means “rulers,” “Delivers,” or “Saviors.”

AUTHOR: Authorship uncertain. May have been Samuel.

TIME WRITTEN: Between 1043 B.C. & 1004 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE: • 7th Book in the Bible
• 7th Book in the Old Testament
• 2nd of 12 books of History (Joshua - Esther)
• 59 Books to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 21
VERSES: 618
WORDS: 18,976

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JUDGES:

- Following the death of Joshua, Israel fell into a 350 year Dark Age.
- The events covered in the Book of Judges range from about 1380 B.C. to 1045 B.C. (335 years). NOTE: The events of Judges extend another 30 years since it includes the life of Samuel.
- In computing the time frame of Judges, it appears that the rulerships of some of the judges overlap because not all of them ruled over the entire land.
- Judges describes various cycles of apostasy, oppression, and deliverance in:
  - The southern region - Judges 3:7-31
  - The northern region - Judges 4:1 - 5:31
  - The central region - Judges 6:1 - 10:5
  - The western region - Judges 13:1 - 16:31
- Judges is a book about sin and its consequences.
- Judges 21:25 is a most descriptive verse: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- 13 judges are mentioned in the Book of Judges. Four more are mentioned in 1 Samuel.
- 7 apostasies . . . 7 servitudes . . . 7 deliverances.
- The cycle of Judges appears to be:
  - Rebellition ——— Sin
  - Retribution ——— Servitude
  - Repentance ——— Supplication
  - Restoration ——— Salvation
  - Rest ——— Silence
- In Judges, the oppressors of Israel are:
  - Mesopotamians
  - Moabites
  - Philistines
  - Ammonites
- The named Judges are:
  - Othinel
  - Ehud
  - Shamgar
  - Deborah (with Barak)
  - Gideon
  - Abimelech
  - Tola
  - Jair
  - Jephtha
  - Ibzan
  - Elon
  - Abdon
  - Samson
  - Eli
  - Samuel
  - Joel
  - Abijah
- After a judge delivers the people from oppression, he rules and administers justice.
- Primary reasons for Israel’s failure during the period of the Judges:
  - A lack of faith in God.
  - A lack of obedience to God.
- Israel’s failure to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan during the period of the conquest contributed significantly to the sin problem in Israel.
- Judges 2:10 - “Another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.”

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