

Judges

Key Verse

Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

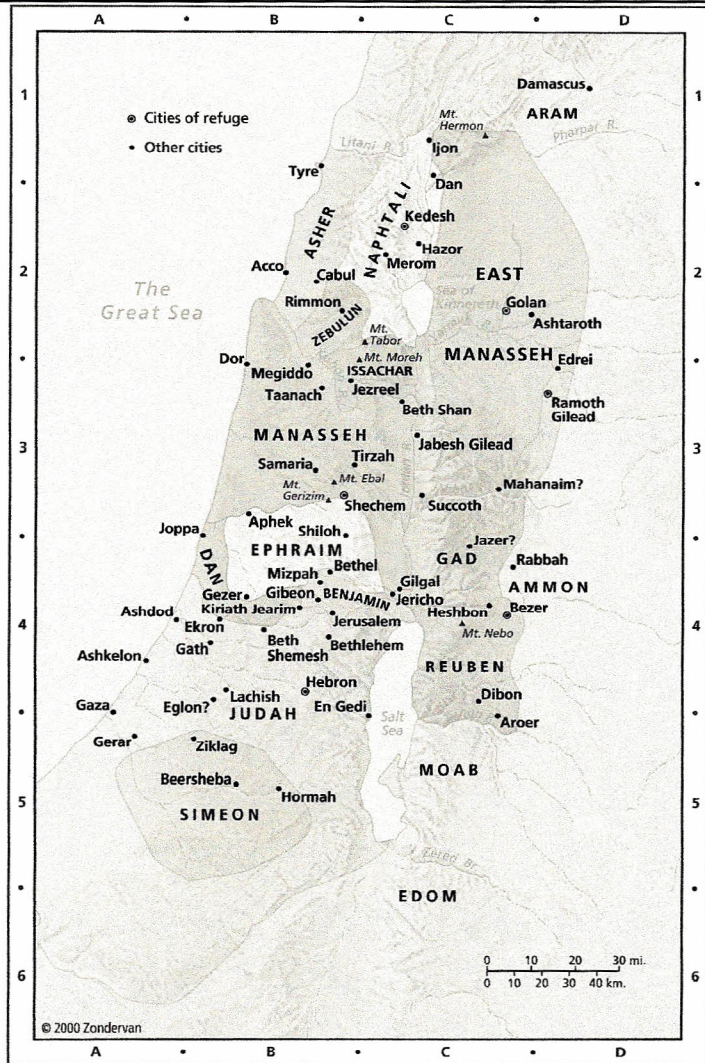
But when they judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshipping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

Judges 2:18-19

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fter Joshua dies, the Israelites lose their focus regarding God. They enter a period in which they often turn to pagan gods, only to turn back to God after defeat or catastrophic event. The cycle in a nutshell:

1. Israel forgets God; worships pagan gods instead
2. God allows enemies to oppress Israel
3. Israel prays to God for deliverance
4. God raises up a leader, called a judge, to deliver them from their enemies
5. Peace comes, generally until the death of the judge, then return to step 1.



Land of the twelve tribes

Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
Creation/Fall Adam & Eve Noah	Patriarchs Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	Israel in Egypt	The Exodus Moses The Law	Promised Land Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	United Kingdom Samuel Saul David Solomon

PEOPLE

Asherah a Canaanite fertility goddess **Amalekites** descendants of Esau who become enemies of Israel **Amorites** enemy of Israel living in Canaan **Asher** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Benjamin** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Caleb** one of the twelve spies who enter the Land of Canaan; he and Joshua are only two spies who return favoring the invasion of Canaan **Canaanites** original inhabitants of Canaan **Dan** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Deborah** the only female judge—and one of the few women leaders named in the Bible — Deborah’s faith in God makes her an effective leader during a time when leaders were ALWAYS expected to be men; Deborah deliver Israel from the Canaanites and leads Israel for 20 years **Ephraim** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Gad** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Gideon** weak and lacking confidence in his own abilities, Gideon perseveres through the strong hand of God; though Gideon requires multiple assurances from God, he ultimately always demonstrates his faith through his actions; Gideon delivers Israel from the Midianites and leads Israel for 40 years **Hittites** ancient tribe living in Canaan **Isaac** father of Jacob and Esau **Issachar** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Israel** father of the twelve tribes of Israel **Jebusites** ancient tribe in control of Jebus (later Jerusalem) **Joshua son of Nun** Moses’ lieutenant and successor **Judah** one of 12 tribes of Israel; ancestors of Christ **Levi** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Levites** Aaron, Miriam and Moses are Levites; line of priests and their assistants **Manasseh** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Midianites** descendants of Abraham who are a nomadic enemy of Israel **Moabites** descendants of Lot living in land adjacent to Ammom **Naphtali** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Nazarite** individuals who cut don’t cut their hair and make other special pledges to God **Reuben** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Samson** physically strong but morally weak, Samson leads Israel for 20 years, but is never able to drive away the Philistines; he dies as a result of his passion for a prostitute, but redeems himself somewhat with his dying act **Simeon** one of 12 tribes of Israel **Zebulun** one of 12 tribes of Israel

TERMS

ephod a linen apron, often worn by priests **judge** leader; interpreter of laws **prophetess** women who speaks as inspired by God

Genealogy of Christ



930	722	587	538	336	63 BC
Divided Kingdom	Samaria	Jerusalem	Judeans return	Greek	Roman
North: Ahab Elijah	South: Hezekiah Isaiah	falls to Assyria, scatters	falls to Babylon, exiled	Esther Ezra Nehemiah	rule rule