

Judges

Author: There is no definitive author though some argue it is the prophet Samuel

Date: If it is Samuel writing this as a defense of David as King then likely between 1025 and 1004 BCE

Audience: Those who rebelled against God

Reason: This book is about the cycle of sinfulness that Israel goes through and the appointment of judges

Theme: Israel's disobedience and the need to be saved

Key Verse: [Judges 21:25](#)

Sections: The reason for Falling Away (Ch 1-3), The Judges (Ch 3-16), Outcome (Ch 17-21)

Key Words: Sin, Repentance, Judge, Faithfulness

Basic Intro: Think about the movement of God's people. They moved as a group with one leader from Moses to Joshua. Now they are spreading out and it is unmanageable to lead with a single person. Enter the Judges. They are people who are a hybrid of military, government and spiritual leadership. They are hero's and saviors As well as those who put the people in the right direction again. Unfortunately, the people keep falling back into sin.

Questions for Discussion:

- There is a cycle of sinfulness in this work. How do you recognize your pattern of sinfulness and like a judge, what word of truth can you speak over that pattern?

- This book is violent in a bad movie kind of violence way. How can we trust/justify/etc a God of love who caused so much slaughter?
- Gideon is a powerful story from this book. He went from 300,000 men to 300. This was done so that he could learn to rely on God. Have you ever experienced a drawing down of your resources to expand your reliance on God? What was that like?
- Samson is the Judge that most of us remember. He had supernatural abilities and one great weakness (Delilah). How has God given you abilities that might be considered supernatural (or at least better than most)? What is the weakness to that?
- This book ends with brutality. We begin with women Judges and as the sin cycle grows, we end with a brutal rape/murder. What we are witnessing is that when we distance ourselves from God, awful things happen. Humanity is corrupted and we can reject not only our leaders (Judges) but whole groups of people (the further subjection of women seen at the end). What can you take away from this part of the story?