

THE JUDGES

Judge and Tribe	Scripture References	Major Events	Oppressors	Period of Oppression	Period of Rest
(1) Othniel (Judah) Son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb	Judg. 1:11–15; 3:1–11 Josh. 15:16–19; 1 Chr. 4:13	(1) Othniel was the nephew of Caleb (3:11) and became his son-in-law after the capture of Kirjath Sepher (1:12, 13). (2) Defeated Cush-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia (3:10).	Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia (3:8)	8 years (3:8)	40 years (3:11)
(2) Ehud (Benjamin) Son of Gera	Judg. 3:12–4:1	(1) Ehud, the left-handed Benjamite, personally slew Eglon, the fat king of Moab (3:21, 22). (2) Led in the slaying of 10,000 Moabites (3:29).	Eglon, king of Moab (3:12) Ammonites (3:13) Amalekites (3:13)	18 years (3:14)	80 years (3:30)
(3) Shamgar (Perhaps foreign) Son of Anath	Judg. 3:31; 5:6	(1) Shamgar slew 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (3:31).	Philistines (3:31)	Not given	Not given
(4) Deborah (Ephraim) and Barak (Naphtali) Son of Abinoam	Judg. 4:1–5:31 Heb. 11:32	(1) Deborah, a prophetess and judge, was the wife of Lapidath (4:4; 5:7) (2) Deborah, and Barak defeated Sisera (with his 900 iron chariots) at the Battle of Kishon (4:13–16). (3) Sisera killed by Jael, the wife of Heber, with a tent peg (4:21). (4) The Song of Deborah (ch. 5) recounts the victory of Deborah and Barak over Sisera. (5) Barak is listed among the “Heroes of the Faith” in Heb. 11:32.	Jabin, king of Canaan (4:2); Sisera was the commander of his army (4:2)	20 years (4:3)	40 years (5:31)
(5) Gideon (Manasseh) Son of Joash the Aiesrite Also called: Jerubbaal (6:32; 7:1) Jerubbesheth (2 Sam. 11:21)	Judg. 6:1–8:32 Heb. 11:32	(1) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon at Ophrah as he was beating our wheat in the winepress (6:11–18). (2) Gideon’s offering consumed by fire (6:19–24). (3) Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal by night (6:25–27). (4) Gideon “put out the fleece” twice for a “sign” (6:36–40). (5) Gideon reduced his army from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300 (7:2–8); he routed the Midianites with trumpets, pitchers, and torches (7:16–22). (6) Oreb and Zeeb killed by the Ephraimites (7:24–8:3). (7) Gideon took revenge on the men of Succoth and Penuel for not giving his army bread (8:5–9, 14–17). (8) Gideon killed Zebah and Zalmunna (Midianite kings) in revenge for the death of his brothers at Tabor (8:18–21). (9) Gideon made a gold ephod which led the people into idolatry (8:24–27).	Midianites (6:1, 3, 33; 7:12) Amalekites (6:3, 33; 7:12) “People of the East” (6:3, 33; 7:12)	7 years (6:1)	40 years (8:28)
(6) Abimelech (Manasseh) Son of Gideon by a concubine	Judg. 8:33–9:57 2 Sam. 11:21	(1) Abimelech slew all his half brothers (70) except Jotham, the youngest (9:5). (2) Abimelech defeated Gaal, who conspired against him (9:26–41). (3) Abimelech captured Shechem and razed the city (9:42–49). (4) At Thebez a woman threw a millstone which hit Abimelech on the head; Abimelech then had his armorbearer kill him with a sword (9:50–54).	Civil war		Abimelech ruled over Israel 3 years (9:22).
(7) Tola (Issachar) Son of Puah	Judg. 10:1, 2	(1) Tola was probably from one of the leading families of Issachar (cf. Gen. 46:13; Num. 26:23).			Judged Israel 23 years (10:2)

(8) Jair (Gilead-Manasseh)	Judg. 10:3–5	(1) Jair was probably a descendant of the Jair who distinguished himself during the days of Moses and Joshua (Num. 32:41; Deut. 3:14; Josh. 13:30; 1 Kin. 4:13; 1 Chr. 2:21). (2) Jair had 30 sons who were itinerant judges (10:4).			Judged Israel 22 years (10:3)
(9) Jephthah (Gilead-Manasseh) Son of Gilead by a harlot (11:1)	Judg. 10:6–12:7 Heb. 11:32	(1) Jephthah was the son of Gilead by a harlot (11:1); he was driven off by his vengeful half brothers and fled to the land of Tob. (2) Elders of Gilead brought Jephthah back and made him their chief at Mizpah (11:4–11). (3) Jephthah sent a message to the King of Ammon saying that the Israelites had been in possession of Gilead for 300 years-too long for the Ammonites to challenge their right to it (11:26). (4) Jephthah subdued the Ammonites, conquering some 20 cities (11:32, 33). (5) Jephthah devoted his daughter to the service of the Lord for the rest of her life, in fulfillment of his foolish vow (11:31–40). (6) Jephthah defeated the Ephraimites, who were offended because they had not been asked to join in the battle against the Ammonites (12:1–6).	Philistines (10:7) Ammonites (10:7) Civil war with the Ephraimites (12:4)	18 years (10:8)	Judged Israel 6 years (12:7)
(10) Ibzan (Judah or Zebulun) (Bethlehem-Zebulun; cf. Josh. 19:15)	Judg. 12:8–10	(1) Ibzan had 30 sons and 30 daughters, for whom he arranged marriages; this indicates his wealth and social prominence (12:9). (2) A Jewish tradition identifies Ibzan with Boaz of Bethlehem-Judah.			Judged Israel 7 years (12:9)
(11) Elon (Zebulun)	Judg. 12:11, 12	(1) The only information given concerning Elon is that he was buried at the Aijalon in Zebulun, distinguishing if from the better-known Aijalon in Danite territory (12:12)			Judged Israel 10 years (12:11)
(12) Abdon (Ephraim, 12:15) Son of Hillel	Judg. 12:13–15	(1) The wealth and proinence of Abdon is revealed by the fact that he had 40 sons and 30 grandsons, who all rode on mounts (12:14). (2) Abdon was a native of Pirathon and was later buried there (12:13, 15).			Judged Israel 8 years (12:14)
(13) Samson (Judg. 13:2) Son of Manoah	Judg. 13:1–16:31 Heb. 11:32	(1) Samson's birth was announced by the Angel of the Lord; he was consecrated a Nazirite from birth (ch. 13). (2) Samson slew a lion barehanded (14:5, 6). (3) Samson slew 30 Philistines at Ashkelon (14:19) (4) Samson caught 300 foxes, tied them in pairs with a torch between their tails, and turned them into the grain fields of the Philistines (15:1–8). (5) Samson slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass (15:14–19). (6) Samson carried off the gate of Gaza (16:1–3). (7) Samson was conquered by Delilah, blinded, and imprisoned at Gaza (16:4–22). (8) Samson pulled down the Temple of Dagon, killing himself and about 3,000 Philistines (16:23–31).	Philistines (13:1)	40 years (13:1)	Judged Israel 20 years (15:20, 16:31)