

# THE DISTRESSING DAYS OF THE JUDGES (1:1)

When you are in it: it feels like home!

When you are a great distance from it: you **assume** it's like home

## 1. The Judges judged over a long period of time!

**Joshua 1:1** NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto **Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

**Judges 1:1** NOW after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

**Judges 11:26** While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that be along by the coasts of Arnon, **three hundred years**? why therefore did ye not recover them within that time?

**1 Kings 6:1** And it came to pass **in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that** he began to build the house of the LORD.

**2 Kings 23:22** Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

**Warning: we cannot just add up the numbers since there is much overlap.**

**1 Kings 6:1: Exodus 1146 BC**

**Judges 11:26: 1400 - 1100 BC so about 300 years**

**Total years for the Judges: 340 years**

**Total years for the Kings: 450 years → this includes the united, divided and surviving kings and kingdom**

## 2. The Judges didn't so much judge as lead and deliver!

**Judges 2:11** And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: **Judges 2:12** And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. **Judges 2:13** And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. **Judges 2:14** And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. **Judges 2:15** Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

**Judges 2:16** Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges (שִׁפְטֵימָם), which delivered (וַיִּשְׁעֵם) them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

**Judges 2:17** And yet they would **not** hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

**Judges 2:18** And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

(שִׁפְטֵימָם) (שִׁפְטָא): Judge plural and singular means to judge. However, the meaning is nuanced / tweaked by context and normally means a military deliverer or leader.

**Judges 3:9** And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, **the LORD raised up a deliverer** to the children of Israel, **who delivered them**, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. **Judges 3:10** **And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war:** and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

**Judges 4:4** And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, **she judged Israel at that time.** **Judges 4:5** And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-el in mount Ephraim: **and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.**

**Judges 10:1** And after Abimelech **there arose to defend Israel** Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim. **Judges 10:2** **And he judged Israel** twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.

**Judges 10:3** And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, **and judged Israel** twenty and two years.

**Judges 12:7** And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

**Judges 12:8** And after him Ibzan of Beth-lehem judged Israel. **Judges 12:9** And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, whom he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. **And he judged Israel seven years.**

**Judges 12:11** And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, **judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years.**

**Judges 12:13** And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, **judged Israel. Judges 12:14** And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts: **and he judged Israel eight years.**

**Judges 15:20** **And he judged Israel** in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

**Judges 16:31** Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. **And he judged Israel twenty years.**

**Ruth 1:1** NOW it came to pass **in the days when the judges ruled**, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

**1 Samuel 4:18** And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. **And he had judged Israel forty years.**

**1 Samuel 7:15** **And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 1 Samuel 7:16** **And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. 1 Samuel 7:17** And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; **and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.**

**1 Samuel 8:1** And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. **1 Samuel 8:2** Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. **1 Samuel 8:3** And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

**1 Samuel 8:5** And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. **1 Samuel 8:6** But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

**1 Samuel 8:20** That we also may be like all the nations; and **that our king (מֶלֶךְנוּ) may judge (וְיִשְׁפֹּט) us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**

### 3. The Judges record is recorded in **three books!**

**Judges 2:16** Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

**Ruth 1:1** NOW it came to pass **in the days when the judges ruled**, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

**1 Samuel 7:15** And Samuel **judged** Israel all the days of his life. **1 Samuel 7:16** And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and **judged** Israel in all those places. **1 Samuel 7:17** And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he **judged** Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

### 4. The Judges were not all of one kind

Everyone agrees with this and then the agreement stops quickly.

PRIMARY JUDGES:	SECONDARY JUDGES:	SHADOW JUDGES:	OVERLOOKED JUDGES:
Othniel	Shamgar	Abimelech	Samuel
Ehud	Tola		Eli
Deborah (& Barak)	Jair		
Gideon	Ibzan		
Jephthah	Elon		
Sampson	Abdon		
These are the Judges that effected some kind of external deliverance + time + impact + amount of text	These all served &/ led and possibly delivered in some way		

### 5. The Judges were all **complicated** leaders!

**Job 32:7** I said, Days should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.

**Job 32:9** Great men are not **always** wise: Neither do the aged understand judgment.