

JUDGES

The Bible is a bunch of smaller stories that point to one, big, true story: The story of God and His rescue plan through Jesus.



CREATION PATRIARCHS EXODUS CONQUEST JUDGES KINGDOM EXILE RETURN SILENCE GOSPEL CHURCH MISSIONS FUTURE

Let's summarize the JUDGES era:

The Israelites forgot God and what He had done for them. Instead of following God, they worshiped the fake gods of the Canaanites. Because of their sin, God allowed them to be defeated by other nations. God still loved them. When they called out to Him, He was faithful and sent judges to rescue them. Israel failed, but God was still at work. There was still hope.

Where is it found?

Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel 1-9

Names to know:

Gideon
Ruth
Samuel

What are the major stories?

(Judges 2) The Israelites worshiped the fake gods of the Canaanites instead of the one true God. Because of their sin, God let them be defeated by their enemies, and they went through seven cycles of sin, punishment, repentance, and rescue.

(Judges 6-7) Gideon, one of the judges, was fearful and doubted God, but God used him and only 300 Israelites to defeat a huge, enemy army. Gideon later turned away from God, just like the rest of Israel.

(Ruth 4) Ruth, a widowed Moabite, traveled to Israel with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and took care of her. Ruth married a godly Israelite named Boaz, and they became the great-grandparents of King David.

(1 Samuel 3) Israel had no king and everyone did whatever they thought was right. God chose Samuel to be the last judge and used him to give messages to the Israelites and call them to turn back to God.

How does the JUDGES era point to Jesus?

Just as God was faithful to raise up judges to rescue His people despite their failure, He is faithful to rescue us when we are stuck in our own cycle of sin and failure today. He sent the ultimate Judge through the family of Ruth and Boaz. The town Ruth and Naomi moved to was Bethlehem, the birthplace of David and later Jesus. Jesus is the one who came to die on the cross and conquer death so that we can be saved when we believe in Him. The good and loving God who was faithful to the Israelites in Judges is still good, loving, and faithful to us today.