



# JUDGES

# TITLE/AUTHOR

Judges name comes from the title given to the 12 leaders in Israel between Joshua and Samuel

It is an anonymous work, though Jewish tradition ascribes authorship to Samuel

It is possible that the same author wrote Joshua, Judges, the books of Samuel and the books of Kings...

But we just don't know enough to say one way or the other



# COMPOSITION

The book covers a period of time from Joshua's death to the rise of Samuel

It must have been written some time after the last recorded event, which would have been mid 11<sup>th</sup> century BC



# LITERARY ANALYSIS

The book of Judges is a collection of “hero stories”  
These stories tell the history of Israel from the time  
after the conquest of the promise land up until  
they had their first human king

# OUTLINE

Judges can be outlined this way:

- The Roots of Israel's Apostasy (1:1-3:6)
- The Downward Spiral of Israel's Apostasy (3:7-16:31)
- The Depths of Israel's Apostasy (17:1-21:25)



# MAJOR THEMES

The major theme of the book of Judges is the downward spiral of Israel's national and spiritual life into chaos and apostasy, showing the need for a godly king to lead it (ESVSB)

The major problem for Israel during the period of the Judges was its penchant for turning away from the Lord and toward the gods of the Canaanites (ESVSB)

# PURPOSE

Judges was written to show the consequences of religious apostasy and to point the way to a king who, if righteous, would lead the people to God (ESVSB)

It was written as a justification for the monarchy (see 21:25)

# LIST OF JUDGES

Othniel (3:7-11) from the tribe of Judah

Ehud (3:12-30) from the tribe of Benjamin

Shamgar (3:31)

Deborah (4-5) from the tribe of Ephraim

Gideon (6-8) from the tribe of Manasseh

Tola (10:1-2) from the tribe of Issachar

Jair (10:3-5) from the tribe of Manasseh

Jephthah (10:6-12:7) from the tribe of Manasseh

Ibzan (12:8-10) from the tribe of Judah or Zebulun

Elon (12:11-12) from the tribe of Zebulun

Abdon (12:13-15) from the tribe of Ephraim

Samson (13-16) from the tribe of Dan



# THE JUDGES CYCLE

