



JUDGES

1 After the death of Joshua, all the Israelites asked the LORD, "Who will be the first to fight against the Canaanites?"

2 The LORD answered them, "I will send you out against the Canaanites, but only if you will go with me." They answered, "We will go." So the LORD sent out the Spirit of His power, and He divided the land into their inheritance.

3 Then the men of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Simeon said to their brothers, "Come up with us into the land of Canaan, for we will fight against the Canaanites. Will you go with us?" They answered, "We will go." So the LORD sent out the Spirit of His power, and He divided the land into their inheritance. The Simeonites went with them.





and courageous, because you will lead these people to

I swore to them, and they are here, to give them a

A Bible Study

By

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- **MEANING:**

“rulers,” “Delivers,” or “Saviors.”

- **AUTHOR:**

Authorship uncertain. May have been Samuel.

- **OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JUDGES:**

Following the death of Joshua, Israel fell into a 350 year Dark Age.

The events covered in the Book of Judges range from about 1380 B.C. to 1045 B.C. (335 years).

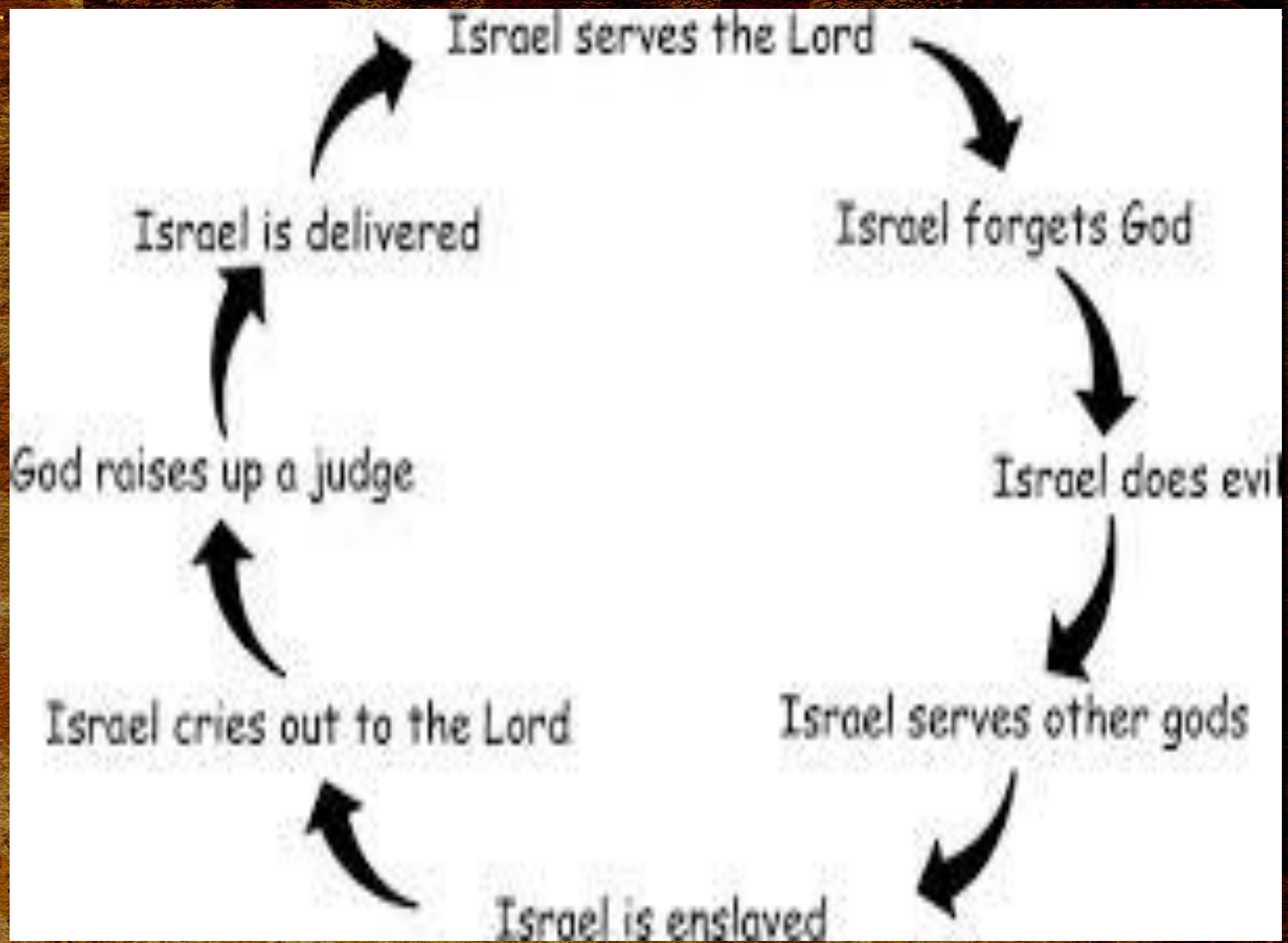
Estimated Timeline

- **1446 BC — Israel's exodus from Egypt**

1406 BC — Israel's entrance to the Promised Land

1383 BC — The death of Joshua

1056 BC — The Birth of Samuel



Judges is a book about sin and its consequences.

**Judges 21:25 is a most descriptive verse:
“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

- ²⁰ And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat.
- ²¹ And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly:
- ²² And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

Judges 4:21

- **Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.**

Judges is a book about sin and its consequences.

**Judges 21:25 is a most descriptive verse:
“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

“In those days Israel had no king;
everyone did as they saw fit.”

- **Thirteen judges are mentioned in the Book of Judges. Four more are mentioned in 1 Samuel.**

THE JUDGES of ISRAEL

JUDGE	YEARS of SERVICE	OPPRESSOR	YEARS of OPPRESSION	YEARS of PEACE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES in JUDGES	PROVINCE or TRIBAL AFFILIATION
Othniel		Cushan-rishathaim (King of Aram naharim?) Aramean King?	8	40	3:8-11	Judah
Ehud		Eglon, King of Moab	18	80	3:12-30	Benjamin
Shamgar		Philistines			3:31	Son of Anath; possibly a non-Israelite
Deborah with Barak		Canaanites led by Jabin and Sisera	20	40	4:1-5:31	Issachar? Ephraim? Barak came from Naphtali
Gideon		Midianites and Amalekites	7	40	6:1-8:27	Manasseh
Tola	23				10:1-2	Issachar
Jair				22	10:3-5	Gileadite; East Manasseh?
Jephthah	6	Ammonites and Philistines	18		10:6-12:7	Gileadite; East Manasseh?
Ibzan	7				12:8-10	From Bethlehem: most likely in Judah, but possibly in Zebulun
Elon	10				12:11-12	Zebulun
Abdon	8				12:13-15	Piratonite (Ephraim)
Samson	20	Philistines	40		13-16	Dan

Israel under the oppression of Jabin and Canaan

- **The cycle begins again; apostasy, servitude and supplication**
- **Israel has been in Canaan now for about 150 years.**

They have enjoyed 80 plus years of peace since Ehud and Shamgar.

- **God raises up Jabin and Canaan to oppress Israel**
- **Jabin is the King**
- **Sisera is the captain of the army**
- **They had oppressed Israel for 20 years**
- **They were equipped with 900 chariots of iron**

**(4-5) Deborah: a prophetess
and a judge for Israel.**

**God raises up DEBORAH to be
the judge of Israel.**

(6-7) Deborah calls Barak with a message from God.

- **“Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy *troops* at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand’?”**

(8-10) Barak will only lead if
Deborah accompanies.

Israel's defeat of Sisera

(11-13) The armies gather together against one another.

(14-16) Sisera and his army
are utterly defeated

(17-22) The death of Sisera
by the hand of a woman,
Jael.



(23-24) After this decisive battle, full victory soon won for Israel.