

Purpose

To demonstrate that God's judgment against sin is certain and that His forgiveness and restoration are just as certain for those who repent

Penman

Possibly Samuel

Setting

Canaan (Israel) — God had helped the Israelites conquer Canaan, which was inhabited by wicked nations, but now they were in danger of losing that Promised Land because of their disobedience to God

Key People

Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah

Key Places

Hazor, Ammon, Timnah, Valley of Sorek, Gaza, Ephraim, Dan, Gibeah, Mizpah

Key Verse

"In those days, Israel had no king, so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." *Judges 17:6*

Special Feature

This book records Israel's first civil war.

Used Tyndale's "Life Application Bible" (NLT)

An Overview (21 Chapters)

- The Military Failure of Israel (*1:1-3:6*)
- The Rescue of Israel by the Judges (*3:7-16:31*)
- The Moral Failure of Israel (*17:1-21:25*)

Major Themes

- *Compromise*: Society has many rewards to offer those who compromise their faith — wealth, acceptance, recognition, power, and influence. When God gives us a mission, it must not be polluted by a desire for approval from society. We must keep our eyes on Christ.
- *Apostasy*: We can expect decay when we value anything more highly than God. If we value our own independence (as the Israelites did) more than dedication to God, we have placed an idol in our hearts. Soon our lives become temples to that god.
- *Oppression*: Rebellion against God leads to disaster. God may use defeat to bring us back to Him. When all else is stripped away, we recognize the importance of serving only Him.
- *Repentance*: Compromise, apostasy, and oppression caused the people to cry out to God for help. They vowed to turn from idolatry and turn to God for deliverance. When we renounce the idols in our hearts and turn to God for love and mercy, He will deliver us.