

The Book of Judges

Introduction to Chapter 4

Introduction

Author and Date

What do all of the historical books of the Old Testament have in common?

Who does Jewish tradition ascribe as the author of the book of Judges?

What are three most promising indicators as to when the book of Judges was written?

Title

What does the term judges mean?

Place in the Canon

Where does the book of Judges find its place in the Old Testament canon?

Structure

What is the threefold outline of the book of Judges?

Themes and Characteristics

What is the most notable feature the book of Judges?

Did many of the judges have defects in character?

Christian Perspective

What is the Christian perspective on the book of Judges?

What happens after the death of Joshua? (Read Note 1:1-2:5)

(Read 1:8) Does Israel permanently conquer the city of Jerusalem? (Note 1:8)

Does Israel conquer or compromise with its enemies? (Read Note 1:22-36)

(Read 1:22-26) How does story about the takeover of Bethel and Jericho coincide? (Note 1:23-26)

(Read 1:27-28) Did Israel obey God's command regarding the need to drive the Canaanites out of the Promised Land? (Note 1:27, 1:28)

How does sin, suffering and Judgement play out in the book of Judges? (Read Note 2:11-3:6)

(Read 2:11-13) Who is Baal and Ashtaroth? (Note 2:11, 2:13)

(Read 2:16-17) Who are the judges? Did Israel listen to the judges? (Note 2:16, 2:17)

(Read 2:18-23) How did God test Israel? (Note 2:22)

(Read 3:1-3) Who are the nations that still occupied Promised Land? (Note 3:3)

(Read 3:4-6) Did the Israelites intermarry with the Canaanites? (Note 3:6)

(Read 3:7-11) Who is Othniel? (Note 3:9)

Is the Spirit at work in the Old Testament? (Note 3:10)

(Read 3:12-14) Who is Eglon? (Note 3:12)

(Read 3:15) Who is Ehud? (Note 3:15)

(Read 3:16-23) What came forth from the mortal wound of Eglon? (Note 3:22)

(Read 3:26-30) What is the meaning of “sound the trumpet”? (Note 3:27)

(Read 3:31) Who is Shamgar? (Note 3:31)

What do chapters 4 & 5 concern themselves with? (Note 4:1-5:31)

(Read 4:1-4) Who is Deborah? (Note 4:4)

(Read 4:12-22) How can this passage be understood allegorically? (Note 4:21)