

JUDGES & RUTH

<input type="checkbox"/>	August 16	Judg 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 17	Judg 2:1–3:6
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 18	Judg 3:7–4:24
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 21	Judg 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 22	Judg 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 23	Judg 7:1–8:21
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 24	Judg 8:22–9:21
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 25	Judg 9:22–57
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 28	Judg 10:1–11:28
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 29	Judg 11:29–12:15
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 30	Judg 13–14
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 31	Judg 15:1–16:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 1	Judg 16:23–18:31
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 4	Judg 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 5	Judg 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 6	Judg 21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 7	Ruth 1–2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 8	Ruth 3–4

Key Passages

Judges 2:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

Judges 17:6 (ESV) ⁶In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth 1:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Key Themes

leadership, failure, idolatry (Judges); covenant, faithfulness, redemption (Ruth)

Summary (Judges)

Judges portrays the geographical and religious situation of the Israelites after Joshua’s death. It is a collection of primarily hero stories that emphasize the weaknesses of Israel’s leaders and God’s patient compassion. The narrative also illustrates God’s punishment of His people when they turn from worshiping Him to worshiping Baal and living immorally. This punishment usually consists in domination by another people. Each story is set within a framework involving five steps, commonly referred to as the “Judges Cycle,” of sin, repentance, and salvation:

1. Israel does evil and worships the Baals.
2. God becomes angry and hands Israel over to an enemy nation.
3. Israel cries for help.
4. God raises up judges who deliver Israel from the enemy.
5. Israel returns again to foreign gods.

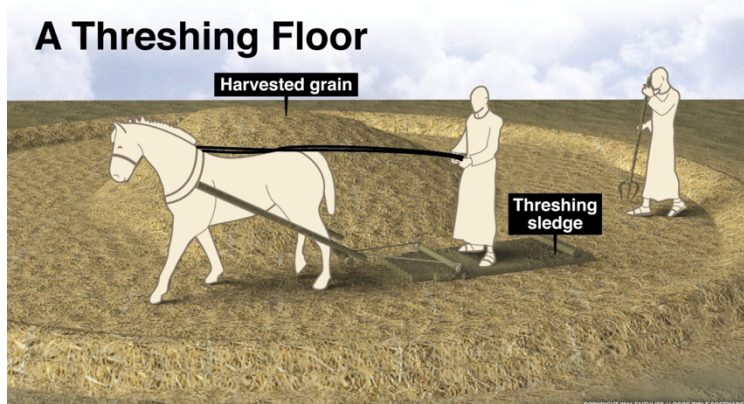
Judges appears to examine various types of candidates for leadership in Israel, demonstrating that none qualifies as a proper model for kingship:

1. **Othniel** is the top choice as a model king, but he is inactive and passive.
2. **Ehud’s** straightforward, violent approach is effective but unsuitable for all situations.
3. **Shamgar** may be foreign and leaves no sign of action.
4. **Gideon** becomes a demanding leader who follows his own vengeful path and ultimately forsakes Yahweh for better financial arrangements.
5. **Abimelech** is a bloodthirsty, self-centered warrior who lives recklessly.
6. **Jephthah** knows Israel’s history and negotiates well, but he recklessly makes deals with Yahweh, resulting in his sacrifice of his daughter and the eventual decimation of the tribe of Ephraim.
7. **Samson** has great strength but doesn’t show respect for anyone; he acts to protect himself and is highly independent.

Content and Structure (Judges)

The book of Judges is arranged in three basic parts:

1. **Prologue (1–2):** Establishes the political and religious setting.
2. **The Hero Narratives (3–16):** Sets up the narrative’s problem; presents leaders making tragic mistakes, often leading to divine delivery.
3. **Epilogue (17–21):** Offers no resolution; emphasizes human injustice and wickedness more than divine delivery. Judges 21:25 indicates that depravity exists in Israel because there was no centralized leadership.



Summary (Ruth)

A story set in the time of the judges. Records a story of love, loyalty, and friendship involving a Moabite woman, her Judean mother-in-law, and the kinsman-redeemer, Boaz. Concludes with a genealogy of David.

Content and Structure (Ruth)

The book of Ruth is highly structured and symmetrical, with four “acts” the three “scenes” from each act.

1. **Act 1 (ch. 1)**—Introduces the characters and their problems; characterized by death and emptiness.
2. **Act 2 (ch. 2)**—Ruth meets Boaz in the harvest field.
3. **Act 3 (ch. 3)**—Ruth meets Boaz on the threshing floor.
4. **Act 4 (ch. 4)**—Provides a complete reversal of the problems: life and fullness take the place of death and emptiness.

Outline

The book of Judges

1:1–2:23—Prologue: Israel after Joshua

- 1:1–36—Geographical situation
- 2:1–23—Religious situation: disobedience

3:1–16:31—Failure of leadership

- 3:1–31—Southern achievement
- 4:1–16:31—Northern foreboding failures
- 4:1–5:31—Barak and Deborah
 - 4:1–24—Jael accomplishes Barak’s calling, killing Sisera
 - 5:1–31—Song of victory
- 6:1–9:57—Gideon and Abimelech
 - 6:1–8:35—Gideon
 - 9:1–57—Abimelech
- 10:1–12:15—Jephthah with minor judges
 - 10:1–5—Minor judges bring peace and royal lifestyle
 - 10:6–18—Repentant Israel seeks a leader
 - 11:1–12:7—Jephthah’s sacrifice
 - 12:8–15—Minor judges
- 13:1–16:31—Samson

17:1–21:25—Epilogue

- 17:1–18:31—Saving Dan
- 19:1–21:25—Saving Benjamin

Outline

The book of Ruth

Act I—The Crisis for the Line (1:1–21)

1. The setting for the crisis (1:1–2)
2. The nature of the crisis (1:3–5)
3. The response to the crisis (1:6–18)
4. The interpretation of the crisis (1:19–21)

Act II—The Ray of Hope for the Line (1:22–2:23)

1. The new setting (1:22–2:1)
2. The initiative of Ruth (2:2–3)
3. The grace of Boaz (2:4–16)
4. The results (2:17–23)

Act III—The Complication for the Line (3:1–18)

1. The scheme of Naomi (3:1–5)
2. The implementation of the scheme (3:6–15)
3. The results of the scheme (3:16–18)

Act IV—The Rescue of the Line (4:1–17)

1. The legal resolution (4:1–12)
2. The genealogical resolution (4:13–17)

Epilogue—The Royal Genealogy (4:18–22)

Judges & Ruth in the N.T. Quotations or Citations (0)

Allusions - Judges (5)

Matthew 2:23

Luke 1:15

Hebrews 11:33

Hebrews 12:26

Revelation 16:16

