

## Introduction: What is Judges All About?

### Primary Information for Starters

- Key Characters: God used judges (**military** leaders) to deliver His people out from under their sin.
- Key Theme: Disobedience results in **judgment**.
- Key Verse: (21:25)- “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- Key Chapter: 2- A miniature version of the whole book (summary in 2:10-19).

### Practical Advice for Study

- Observe the structure of oppression and deliverance.
  - Failure to conquer the **land** (1:1-2:9)
  - Failure to keep the **law** (2:9-3:6)
  - Oppression and salvation (repeated 8 times from chapters 3-16)
  - Failure to conquer the land (17-18)
  - Failure to keep the law (19-21)
- Observe the cycle of disobedience and victory (3-16).
  - Relapse.
  - **Ruin**.
  - Repentance.
  - **Restoration**.
  - Rest.
- Observe the gradual deterioration of Israel.

### Five Things We Must Learn From the Book of Judges:

- This book helps us know **God**.
  - God is **jealous** for people.
  - God is faithful to his promises.
  - God is **patient** with his people.
  - God is holy and just against sin.
  - God is **gracious** with sinners.
  - God is **in charge**, no matter what it looks like.
- Although the judges are flawed individuals, they are also people of God who lived by great **faith**.
- This book helps God’s people to read properly. Judges is **descriptive**, not prescriptive.
- The book reveals who people are when they are left to their own devices—they are idolaters.
- The book looks forward to the coming of a righteous **king** who will lead God’s people in proper worship of Him.

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