

# THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

*And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. (Judges 2:18)*

The Book of Judges is so called because it contains the history of the deliverance and government of Israel by the men who bore the title of the "judges".

The book of Ruth originally formed part of this book, but about A.D. 450 it was separated from it and placed in the Hebrew scriptures immediately after the Song of Solomon.

The "judges" were military and political chiefs aroused by God between 1200 and 1025 b.C. to solve some crisis among Israel's tribes who had come into contact with some pagan and idolatrous peoples of Palestine during the occupation of lands that Joshua had assigned them.

Beside this, they had the task to bring people's Faith to the Lord, God of Israel.

That's the reason why the judges have been examples of faith, as saint Paul wrote in Hebrews 11:32-33, this is the "justice" every believer has to refer to, nowadays.

The book's writer introduces important facts related to the **fourteen judges**, so that he could leave an important and deep teaching about: Israel's faithlessness in God which has not to be imitated; approaches to idolatry, God's liberation, God's piety about his people's pains and the faith of victorious judges.

The book contains the story of **fourteen judges** in the following order:

## FIRST PERIOD (chapter 3<sup>o</sup> until 5<sup>o</sup>) (206 years)

- I. Servitude under Chushan-Rishathaim of Mesopotamia 8 years
  - 1. **OTHNIEL** delivers Israel - rest 40 years
- II. Servitude under Eglon of Moab: Ammon, Amalek 18 years
  - 2. **EHUD'S** deliverance - rest 80 years
  - 3. **SHAMGAR**
- III. Servitude under Jabin of Hazor in Canaan 20 years
  - 4. **DEBORAH** 40 years (helped by **BARAK**, a great warrior and fighter)

## SECOND PERIOD (6<sup>o</sup> until 10:5) (95 years)

- IV. Servitude under Midian, Amalek, and children of the east 7 years
  - 5. GIDEON 40 years
- ABIMELECH, Gideon's son, reigns as king over Israel 3 years
  - 6. TOLA 23 years
  - 7. JAIR 22 years

THIRD PERIOD (10:6 until 12<sup>o</sup>) (49 years)

- V. Servitude under Ammonites with the Philistines 18 years
  - 8. JEPHTHAH 6 years
  - 9. IBZAN 7 years
  - 10. ELON 10 years
  - 11. ABDON 8 years

FOURTH PERIOD (13<sup>o</sup> until 16<sup>o</sup>) (20 years)

- VI. Servitude under Philistines 40 years
  - 12. SAMSON 20 years

FIFTH PERIOD (I<sup>o</sup> book of Samuel) (many years)

- 13. ELI 40 years (priest and judge)
- 14. SAMUELE all his life (prophet and judge)

In all 450 years. *“And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet”.*

Now, making a comparison between a political-government among Israel judges and the prime ministers of the 20th century, who started ruling the Promised Land since 1948, we can notice a similar number of rulers. With the **next** Israel Prime Minister, the number will be the same.

It's evident that the 4th judge: prophetess Deborah is the only woman-judge, just like the 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Israel was the only woman-prime minister: Mrs Golda Meir. **Both were the 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The 12th was Samson, who was the last judge of the Book and the only one who died for the Faith in the Lord God of Israel (Judges 16:30-31).

After Samson, in the last five chapters, the chaos dominates Israel (the historians said for about 20 years) without king, where: *“every man did that which was right in his own eyes”.* (Judges 21:25). Just like nowadays the world is in a political, moral, economic and religious confusion the latter because the denominations have left the Word of God. But at that time God worked on Boaz and Ruth in Bethlehem, who are the perfect type of the

Husband who feeds the Bride in these days with the Wheat of the Word of God, until their happy Marriage and the Lamb's Marriage Soup. Amen!

Israel always represents the God's clock which every Bible student refers to with interest to recognize the times and the signs of the End, as Jesus taught us in the Gospels (Luke 21:28)

That day is hand!

14 Judges = 14 Prime Minister

## PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Took Office</u>	<u>Left Office</u>
1. <a href="#">David Ben-Gurion</a>	<a href="#">1948</a>	<a href="#">1954</a>
2. <a href="#">Moshe Sharett</a>	<a href="#">1954</a>	<a href="#">1955</a>
3. <a href="#">Levi Eshkol</a>	<a href="#">1963</a>	<a href="#">1969</a>
4. <a href="#">Golda Meir</a>	<a href="#">1969</a>	<a href="#">1974</a>
5. <a href="#">Yitzhak Rabin</a>	<a href="#">1974</a>	<a href="#">1977</a>
6. <a href="#">Menachem Begin</a>	<a href="#">1977</a>	<a href="#">1983</a>
7. <a href="#">Yitzhak Shamir</a>	<a href="#">1983</a>	<a href="#">1984</a>
8. <a href="#">Shimon Peres</a>	<a href="#">1984</a>	<a href="#">1986</a>
9. <a href="#">Netanyahu B.</a>	<a href="#">1996</a>	<a href="#">1999</a>
10. <a href="#">Ehud Barak</a>	<a href="#">1999</a>	<a href="#">2001</a>
11. <a href="#">Ariel Sharon</a>	<a href="#">2001</a>	<a href="#">2006</a>
12. <a href="#">Ehud Olmert</a>	<a href="#">2006</a>	<a href="#">2009</a>
13. <a href="#">Bennett N.</a>	<a href="#">2021</a>	<a href="#">2022</a>
14. <a href="#">Yair Lapid</a>	<a href="#">2022</a>	<a href="#">2022</a>

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