

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

JUDGES

Lesson 17

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2006 by Edward Fudge. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

JUDGES IN A NUTSHELL

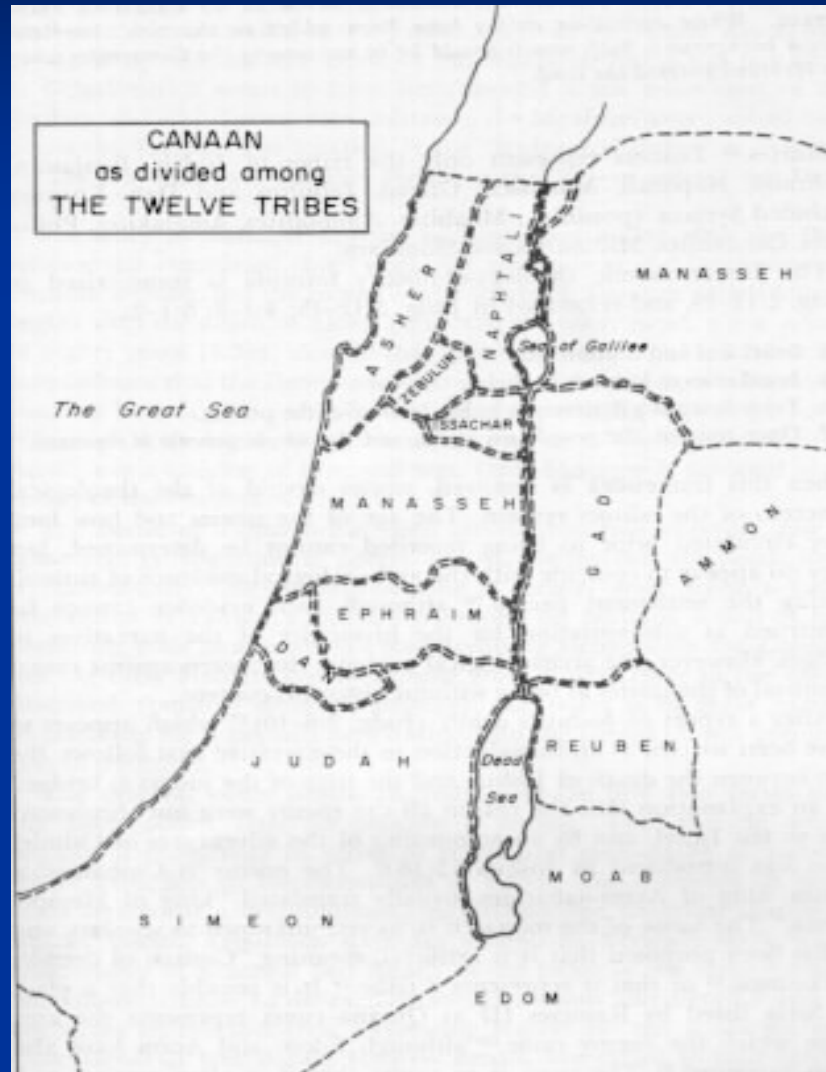
After Joshua's death, the newly-settled Israelites come under frequent regional attacks by unconquered Canaanites and other near neighbors. The reason, our author explains, is the Israelites' own lack of faithfulness to Yahweh and their compromise with Baal worship. Hearing their cries for help, God raises up charismatic war-lords called "judges" to rescue the Israelites. The more interesting judges are Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson.

JUDGES IN A NUTSHELL

The Book of Judges closes with two stories of conflict among the disunited and independent Israelite tribes. After a man named Micah erects a private shrine and hires a Levite as priest, the migrating Danites attack him and carry the Levite north with them (17-18). Some Benjaminites rape and murder another Levite's concubine, provoked the other tribes to attack the offending tribe and almost wipe it out (19-21).

The Book of Judges forms a bridge between the initial conquests under faithful Joshua and the rise of a monarchy as described in First Samuel.

Map of Tribes in Land



Map of Invaders



Map of Regional Judges



JUDGES

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1 -- 3:5).
 - A. Historical Context (1:1 -- 2:5).
 - 1. Failure to Conquer Canaanites.
 - 2. Repeated Cycles of Apostasy, Repentance, Deliverance.
 - B. Spiritual Explanation: Unfaithfulness to Yahweh's Covenant (2:6 -- 3:6).

JUDGES

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1 -- 3:5).
- II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).
 - A. Othniel (3:7-11).

JUDGES

II. MAJOR
NARRATIVES
(3:7 -- ch. 16).

B. Ehud (3:12-31).



JUDGES

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1 -- 3:5).
- II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).
 - A. Othniel (3:7-11).
 - B. **Ehud** (3:12-31).
 - C. Shamgar (3:32).

JUDGES

II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).

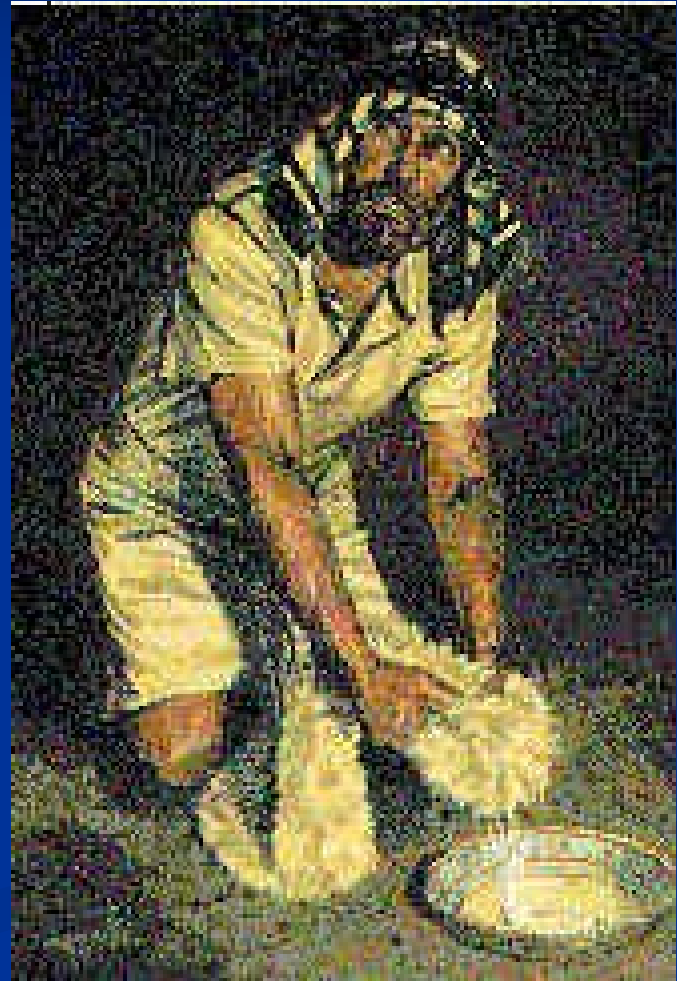
D. Deborah (4-5).



JUDGES

II. MAJOR
NARRATIVES
(3:7 -- ch. 16).

E. **Gideon** (6-8).



JUDGES

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1 -- 3:5).

II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).

A. Othniel (3:7-11).

B. **Ehud** (3:12-31).

C. Shamgar (3:32).

D. **Deborah** (4-5).

E. **Gideon** (6-8).

F. Abimelech (9).

G. Tola (10:1-2).

H. Jair (10:3-5).

I. **Jephthah** (10:6 -- 12:7).

J. Ibzan (12:8-10).

K. Elon (12:11-12).

L. Abdon (12:13-15).

JUDGES

II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).

M. **Samson** (13-16).



JUDGES

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1 -- 3:5).
- II. MAJOR NARRATIVES (3:7 -- ch. 16).
- III. **FAILURES OF ISRAELITE TRIBES AND INTER-TRIBAL CONFLICT (17-21).**
 - A. Danites (17-18).
 - B. Benjaminites (19-21).

JUDGES

Edward Fudge

Visit www.edwardfudge.com