

# The Judges of Israel

## **Othniel** (Judg. 1:12-13; 3:8-11)

Oppressing nation—Mesopotamia

Length of oppression—8 years

Years of peace—40 years

He was both nephew and son-in-law of Caleb.

He captured a strong Canaanite city.

## **Ehud** (3:12-30)

Oppressing nation—Moab

Length of oppression—18 years

Years of peace—80 years

He assassinated a fat Moabite enemy king named Eglon.

He organized an Israelite army that killed 10,000 enemy troops.

## **Shamgar** (3:31)

Oppressing nation—Philistia

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—unrecorded

He killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

## **Deborah** (chs. 4–5)

Oppressing nation—Canaanites

Length of oppression—20 years

Years of peace—40 years

She encourages Barak to put together an army of 10,000.

Barak defeats an enemy general named Sisera at the base of Mt. Tabor.

Sisera is killed later by Jael while in her tent sleeping.

Deborah and Barak sang a duet of praise over their victory.

## **Gideon** (chs. 6–8)

Oppressing nation—Midian

Length of oppression—7 years

Years of peace—40 years

God commissioned him to defeat the Midianites.

He prepared for this by destroying the family idols.

He threw out the fleece twice.

He raised an army of 32,000.

He saw this army reduced to 300 by God.

He defeated 135,000 enemy troops with his 300.

He caused Israel to sin by making a golden ephod.

## **Tola** (10:1)

Oppressing nation—unrecorded

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—23 years

**Jair (10:3-5)**

Oppressing nation—unrecorded

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—22 years

He and his 30 sons delivered 30 Israelite cities from oppression.

**Jephthah (10:6–12:17)**

Oppressing nation—Ammon

Length of oppression—18 years

Years of peace—6 years

He was a prostitute's son who became a mighty warrior.

On the eve of battle he made a rash vow to God: If victorious he would offer the first thing that greeted him. His daughter met him and he sadly performed his vow.

He is later provoked into battle with the jealous tribe of Ephraim.

**Ibzan (12:8-10)**

Oppressing nation—unrecorded

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—7 years

**Elon (12:11-12)**

Oppressing nation—unrecorded

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—10 years

**Abdon (12:13-15)**

Oppressing nation—unrecorded

Length of oppression—unrecorded

Years of peace—8 years

**Samson (chs. 13–16)**

Oppressing nation—Philistia

Length of oppression—40 years

Years of peace—20 years

He was to be raised as a Nazarite.

He killed a lion en route to his wedding.

He killed 30 Philistines to pay off a gambling debt.

Upon losing his wife, he burned the wheat fields of the Philistines.

He killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

He carried off a gate at Gaza.

He was betrayed into the hands of the Philistines by Delilah.

He was shaven, blinded, and enslaved.

He was supernaturally empowered to destroy many Philistines in their own temple by pulling it down.

He himself was killed at this time.