



Judges (Bible #7), ESV

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From Reader Review Judges (Bible #7), ESV for online ebook

Royce Ratterman says

I found this work of immense interest and importance.

The compilation of historical accounts, wisdom & proverbial insights, and thought provoking texts, along with descriptive and informative footnotes, are of great value.

Explanations, including varying scholarly views depicting the material related in this book, are available for each of the 66 individual books of the Bible.

This book is but one of the individual 66 books/letters which were written by forty different authors over at least 1500 years in three different languages on three different continents, which comprise the Bible.

Read for life-related reasons and personal research.

Overall, a great resource for the researcher, enthusiast, and devotee.

Ricky Bosso says

This is for both Judges and Ruth, since Ruth is rather short. Also, Ruth technically coincides canonically with Judges, taking place three generations before the end of the events of Judges. I have no idea how historically accurate that is. In any case, I'll mention both.

Judges is odd, even for the Bible. There is a level of violence in this book that is remarkably macabre. It is sobering to consider that much of this same view to violence still abounds in some regions of the world to this day.

The way it is written and paced gets across eerily well the sense of tribal chaos among the Israelites, though I certainly wouldn't know what is historically accurate and what isn't. The Story of Samson is one among the many stories of atrocities told in Judges, and it is a feverishly bizarre story that has gone through so many truncated interpretations (from John Milton to William Blake to modern day private school religion class, along with probably a host of Christian Metaphysical philosophers whom I've never even heard of), many who have heard of the Story of Samson have likely never quite read the story itself. The connections between Judges and Blood Meridian are also very interesting, though that is perhaps a topic for another day. This is a characteristic true of other portions of the Bible. Again, a topic for another day.

As for Ruth, Ruth is very different. A friend of mine called it surprisingly wholesome, considering it comes right after Judges. I would agree with that summation. It's the most peaceful book in the Bible that I have thus far read.

On to Samuel!

Becca says

And Israel proceeds to disregard God's commands.

Already! How is it possible to have such a short term memory?

Obviously, this is not "fun" to read. I can just say that I'm very grateful the story doesn't end with Judges, or the Kings, or even the Old Testament as a whole. I thank and praise God again this Christmas season for providing a better ending!

Christy Ryan says

This is not a light book to read. It is a very dark time in history. Often repeated in the book is "Everyone did as they saw fit." (21:25)

It is complete and total moral chaos most of the book. A cycle of sin is repeated over. And over. And over. It goes something like this...They drift from following God. There are repercussions. (there always are) Their world is in chaos. They repent...and cry out to God. He hears their cry. (He always does). He restores.

Many chapters you wonder...how did things get this bad? In fact, at one point, the people ask that. (21:3). But it really was just one disobedient step at a time. Much to apply to my own life. To really follow God and walk in obedience, I have to know him. And I know him when I'm in his word.

Jules says

Part of my **READ THE BIBLE WITHIN A YEAR** challenge.

Wish me luck, as I've got a long way to go!

It has been about a month since I read any of the Bible. I've found it hard to motivate myself to continue, and Judges reminded me why. This book is so brutal. Judges is full of violence, rape, death, the cutting up of a woman's body, the gouging out of a man's eyes ...shudder! Although I am still enjoying the challenge, I really did find Judges hard going and emotionally draining, due to all of the shocking violence.

Main topics that stood out to me are:

Israelites repeatedly doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.

Gideon instructed by God to save Israel.

Abimelech not wanting to be known as having been killed by a woman, so he got another man to finish him off, by putting a sword through him.

Samson and his great strength.

Samson tearing a lion apart. Bees moving into the lion carcass and producing honey.

Samson tying torches to the tails of foxes, and letting them loose among the corn of the Philistines.

Samson falling in love with Delilah, having his strength taken from him, and his eyes gouged out by the

Philistines (they never told us that last part at Sunday School).

Wicked men wanting to have sex with a man, but instead being offered a virgin daughter or concubine. The men raped and abused the concubine throughout the night. She died by the next day and was cut up into twelve parts and sent to all different areas of Israel.

Brian Schiebout says

Judges is the seventh book in the Bible, it was inspired by God. Judges tells the story of the people of Israel after they have moved into the land of Canaan. While they conquered the land they did not remove the people or their other gods and abhorrent customs. Soon the Israelites fall into the customs and worship of their neighbors, forsaking God. God then sends other nations to punish and capture them. They then finally call out to God and he sends a deliverer to them which is followed by a period of peace while the deliverer lives. But they fall away after the deliverer's death and the pattern repeats. This is very similar to our lives as Christians. We fall away from God to worship the idols of today. This is followed by a period of discontent where nothing makes us well. Sin even sin that is forgiven has consequences for our lives as it pushes us farther away from people and affects the quality of life. The end of the book of Judges shows these consequences that come from denying God as both Dan and the Benjamenites lose their territory because they only serve man rather than the true God. For us however the consequences need not permanently affect our lives because after we remember God and call out to him and he saves us. We stay well as long as we keep the spirit of our deliverer who is Christ Jesus in our hearts.

Zen Life says

Judges certainly had a LOT going on.

From a dude that asked to be killed by another dude so he wouldn't have been killed by a woman...to some honey being taken and shared after being found being made by some bees in a lion carcass...then we have some more and more and more worshipping false gods...and then toss in some What's your weakness? *Tries that thing* You lied!" Badgering until true weakness is revealed. Which honestly, if you didn't wise u after the first time waking up, it isn't that surprising.

Ending on a huge battle and more bloodshed, this was definitely the most brutal book of the Bible thus far.

I did wind up finding out the difference between Concubine, Wife, and Whore. For the curious: Concubine lives with a man, has sex and children with him, takes care of the children. Low social standing. Wife: Family paid a dowry, if divorced gets dowry back, sex with husband and has children with him, higher social status. Whore: Has sex with multiple partners, usually for money, lowest of the social statuses. That's it in a nutshell.

E7boehm says

Historical book the stories of Micah and Sampson and Gilead are included. Much less about the law and

really more a historical book. Religion lapses and many defeats of the Jews. The almost destruction of house of Benjamin and the peace and marriage of this tribe are very interesting.

Whitney says

The corruption that followed the Israelites worshipping idols was the main theme. I was frustrated with them. I enjoyed the story of Sampson the most.

Chris Via says

With Joshua deceased, the Israelites had no viable successor, so God appointed various judges to lead the burgeoning nation. This book has a cyclical rhythm: god appoints a judge; the Israelites are liberated from their oppressors; the judge passes away; and the Israelites fall back to idolatry and "doing what is right in their own sight." We also encounter the well known stories of Gideon and Samson, which are always much stranger and more complex than I remember. There are standout moments of poetry, such as Deborah's war song, and jarring moments of startlement, such as the concluding story of the concubine cuts into twelfths and shipped to the tribes. As with other books of the establishment of the chosen nation, the brutality can be shocking, but beneath the ostensible violence is the supernatural establishment of a new moral code and theocracy, rendered within the narrow limits of language.

Lori says

What wild, wooly times for the children of Israel and their neighbors. I have nothing to add.

Benjamin Stahl says

Murder, rape, torture, betrayal, deceit. I thought God instructed the Israelites *not* to be wicked.

Courtney says

The reading of God's Word is so remarkable that there is nothing that I can say to make it any better. Please, if you are a lost soul, turn to God! He can heal you and give you the greatest peace that you will ever know!

Kayla says

It's so sad to see the nation of Israel becoming so corrupted because of their disobedience to God. Our society today looks a lot like the book of judges..."everyone did whatever seemed right in his own eyes."

John Stanifer says

This is one of the more memorable books of the Bible. It's also one of the most graphic. When I was younger, the Samson and Delilah story was one of my favorites, though of course back then I didn't understand all the subtleties and the more disturbing aspects of the story--much less had I read the entire book and found out how many other disturbing episodes there were during this period of the Israelites' history.

One image that always lingers in my mind is that of Ehud jamming his sword into Eglon's massive stomach and letting it slide all the way in until "the handle sank in after the blade, and his bowels discharged" (3:22). HEY, WHO'S IN THE MOOD FOR CHEESEBURGERS?!

And that's not even the worst passage (that honor would probably go to the concubine who spends a horrendous night being violated by a raving mob of perverts before having her body chopped into 12 pieces by her "husband" that threw her to the wolves in the first place--wow!). See Judges 19.

If nothing else, this book shows what happens when a nation loses its moral and spiritual compass. It's not pretty.

This probably isn't the best place to start for someone new to the Bible. The Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs are probably going to be more palatable for most readers.

Still, this one isn't boring! Just be prepared for blood, guts . . . and raving mobs of perverts.
