

# The Judges of Israel

*15 total*

*12 mentioned as Judges of Israel*

*3 not mentioned as Judges, however lead Israel*

## 12 Judges:

### Othniel

**Judges 3:7-11** And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years. And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, *even* **Othniel** the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. And the land had rest forty years. And **Othniel** the son of Kenaz died.

### Ehud

**Judges 3:12-30** And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, **Ehud** the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab. But **Ehud** made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon *was* a very fat man. And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present. But he himself turned again from the quarries that *were* by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him. And **Ehud** came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And **Ehud** said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of *his* seat. And **Ehud** put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out. Then **Ehud** went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them. When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour *were* locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber. And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened *them*: and, behold, their lord *was* fallen down dead on the earth. And **Ehud** escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath. And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them. And he

said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over. And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.

### Shamgar

**Judges 3:31** And after him was **Shamgar** the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

### Deborah

**Judges 4:4** And **Deborah**, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

### **Judges chapters 4 and 5**

### Gideon

**Judges 6:11** And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *pertained* unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son **Gideon** threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

### **Judges chapters 6-8**

### Abimelech

**Judges 9:1-3** And **Abimelech** the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether *is* better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, *which are* threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I *am* your bone and your flesh. And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow **Abimelech**; for they said, He *is* our brother.

### **Judges chapter 9**

### Tola

**Judges 10:1-5** And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel **Tola** the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim. And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir. And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty and two years. And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havothjair unto this day, which *are* in the land of Gilead. And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

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### Jephthah

**Judges 10:17-18** Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh. And the people *and* princes of Gilead said one to another, What man *is he* that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead. **Judges 11:1** Now **Jephthah** the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he *was* the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat **Jephthah**.

**Judges 10:17 – 12:7**

### Ibzan

**Judges 12:8-15** And after him **Ibzan** of Bethlehem judged Israel. And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, *whom* he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. Then died **Ibzan**, and was buried at Bethlehem. And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. And Elon the Zebulonite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun. And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, judged Israel. And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts: and he judged Israel eight years. And Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died, and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mount of the Amalekites.

### Elon

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### Abdon

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### **3 Leaders not named as Judges:**

#### **Samson**

**Judges chapters 13-16**

#### **Eli**

**1 Samuel 1:9** So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now **Eli** the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

#### **Samuel**

**1 Samuel 2:21** And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child **Samuel** grew before the LORD.

**1 Samuel 2:21 – 8:22**