

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA—ESTHER
JUDGES: RECYCLED MISERY
A SURVEY OF JUDGES



The Heart of the Matter

It's rough for a nation to pull itself out of the swamp of political scandal and public distrust . . . but to do so *several times in a row* is unheard of. Or is it? If your nation had a hard time recovering from its latest bout with scandal, consider the nation of Israel after entering the land of Canaan under Joshua's leadership. Although clearly and forcefully instructed to drive out the godless inhabitants who still remained in the land, the Hebrews compromised and dragged their feet, ultimately ignoring God's direct command. This initiated a cycle that was, in fact, repeated several times during the years recorded in the book. God heard their cry for deliverance and graciously sent a deliverer (a "judge"). Once victory came, the judge died. After the judge's death, the nation again compromised and fell under the rule of godless people . . . resulting in another cry for deliverance. A study of the book of Judges reveals the struggle people have today with the sinful nature.



Discovering the Way

1. Several Introductory Facts

The name of the book refers to main figures of God's deliverance that crop up throughout the work, while the book as a whole records humanity's proneness to wander from God.

2. Analysis of the Book

The book of Judges makes clear the reasons for the Israelites' failure, the repetitious cycles of misery brought on by disobedience, and the resulting disgrace in society.

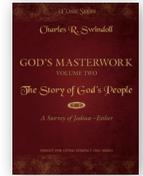


Starting Your Journey

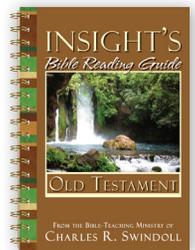
Judges offers three key truths that live on beyond the circumstances it portrays. First, depravity results in permissiveness when righteousness is ignored. Second, permissiveness leads to rationalization when holiness is ignored. And third, rationalization encourages rebellion and wickedness when repentance is ignored.



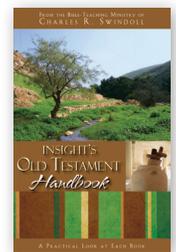
Tools for Digging Deeper



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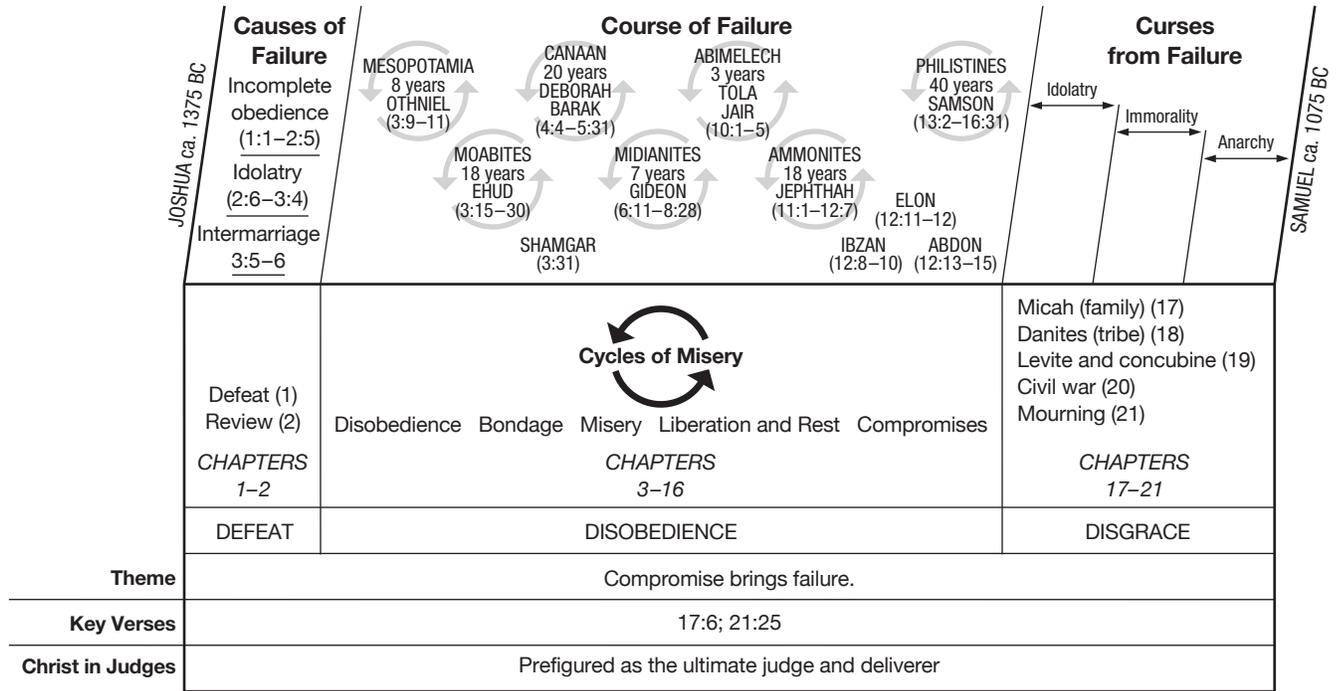
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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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JUDGES



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