

The NIV Action Study Bible

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Excellent quality and very good content for young people.

JUDGES

Author: SAMUEL

Judges tells the story of Israel right after they settled in the Promised Land. No one knows who wrote Judges, but some people think it was the prophet Samuel.

GOD IN ACTION

The people of Israel stayed true to God while Joshua and his fellow leaders were alive. But everything changed when that generation died. The Israelites forgot all God had done for them. They didn't finish the fight against their enemies. They put their trust in foreign gods. They didn't respect God as their king.

So God left other nations in the Promised Land (2:20-23). He used them to test His people. Would the Israelites honor God? Or would they worship the same gods as the other nations? Israel failed the test every time. Each story follows the same basic order:

- The people started worshipping other gods.
- God sent other nations to punish them.
- The people begged God for help.
- God sent a "judge" to rescue them.
- The people enjoyed a time of peace.

The judges led the Israelites in their battles for freedom. God gave each judge what they needed to save His people. He gave Samson superhuman strength to fight the Philistines. He gave Gideon courage to attack a much bigger army.

Every time a judge rescued Israel, the people started worshipping God again. But soon they went back to their old ways. They did whatever they wanted. If only they had a king to show them God's way! Would things be any better? That's what the next few books of the Bible (1 Samuel–2 Chronicles) are about.

PEOPLE IN ACTION

WORDS TO WATCH

Key Words for This Book

DELIVER REPENT COMMIT OBEY
WORSHIP RESCUE TRUST

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 12 judges in this book. Twelve is a popular number in the Bible. There were also 12 tribes of Israel, 12 minor prophets, and 12 disciples of Jesus.

AS ABRAHAM BREATHES A HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF, HE SPOTS A RAM CAUGHT IN A NEARBY BUSH.

GOD HAS PROVIDED A RAM TO SACRIFICE! THANK YOU, GOD!

ABRAHAM RELEASES ISAAC AND PLACES THE RAM ON THE ALTAR.

FATHER, YOU GAVE ME TO GOD—AND HE GAVE ME BACK TO YOU.

YES, MY SON. IT WAS A TEST OF FAITH.

ISAAC, NEVER DOUBT THE WISDOM AND LOVE OF GOD.

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS MULTIPLY AND PROSPER.

IN MY NAME, BECAUSE YOU OBEYED ME, I WILL BLESS THE WHOLE WORLD THROUGH YOUR CHILDREN.