

Outline: The Book of Judges

I. The introduction to the time of the judges (1-2)

- A. The nation after the death of Joshua (1)**
- B. The beginning of a dangerous cycle in this era (2)**

II. The time of the judges (3-16)

- A. Apostasy, defeat, and deliverance (3:1-11)**
- B. A repeat of apostasy, defeat, and deliverance (3:12-31)**
- C. The cycle continues (4:1-5:31)**
- D. The fourth apostasy, defeat, and another deliverance (6:1-8:32)**
- E. The cycle continues, a civil war, and another deliverance (8:33-10:5)**
- F. Apostasy #6 filled with disobedience, defeat, and deliverance (10:6-12:15)**
- G. The cycle continues with disobedience, defeat, and another deliverance (13-16)**

III. The effects of the time of the judges (17-21)

- A. Spiritual apostasy (17-18)**
- B. Moral bankruptcy (19)**
- C. Political anarchy (20-21)**

Discussion Questions: Judges

The introduction to the era of the judges (1-2)

1. How did the disobedience of the nation set the stage for the cycle of dysfunction in the Book of Judges? How should we respond to this information?
2. What does 2:1-5 teach us about disobedience and discipline?

The era of the judges (3-16)

1. What is the significance of Ehud being left-handed?
2. What can we learn from Deborah's leadership in chapters four and five?
3. What can we learn from Gideon's leadership in chapters six through eight?
4. What can we learn from Samson's leadership in chapters 13-16?

The effects of the era of the judges (17-21)

1. What does the chronic cycle of sin teach us about the heart of man?
2. How should we respond to the material covered in this disturbing book?