Judges

Key Figures:

Written by: Samuel, The Prophet

Written to: The succeeding generations of Israel

Written for: To show that God is good but serious about sin

Key Theme or Verse

Judges 21:25
In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes

1 Othniel	2 Ehud	3 Deborah/ Barak	4 Gideon	5 Jephthah	6 Samson
Ch 3:7-11	Ch 3:12-30	Chs.4-5	Chs.6-8	Chs.10:6-12:7	Chs.13-16
The Past World	**The Fleshly Ease**	**Human Wisdom**	**Strife Struggle**	**Fleshly Pride**	**Godless Profession**
1. **3:7: Serving gods** They forgot their God, serving Baal	1. **3:12:** They again did evil in the sight of God	1. **4:1: after Ehud died** They again did evil in the sight of God	1. **6:1:** They did evil in the sight of God	1. **10:6: Serving gods** They did evil in the sight of God	1. **13:1:** They did evil in the sight of God
2. **3:8: 8 years** The Lord was angry with them and sold them to Cushanrishathaim, of Mesopotamia	2. **3:12-14: 18 years** The LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab he got the nations	2. **4:2-3: 20 years** The LORD sold them to Jabin king of Canaan	2. **6:1-10: 7 years** The LORD gave them to Midian	2. **10:7-17: 18 years** To the Philistines and **Ammonites**	2. **13:1: 40 years** LORD gave them into the hand of Philistines
3. **3:9: Judah/South** When they cried out to the LORD…	3. **3:15: Jericho/South** Then they cried out to the LORD	3. **4:3: Hazor/Central** Then they cried out to the LORD	3. **6:6: Issachar/North** Then they cried out to the LORD	3. **10:15-16:** Then they cried out and repented	3. **No Repentance?** Or perhaps same time as ch 10
4. **3:9-10:** The LORD raised up Othniel, relative to Caleb	4. **3:15-29:** The LORD raised Ehud, a lefthanded Benjaminite	4. **4:4-22: Deborah** "Has not the LORD called you Barak to give Jabin to you"	4. **6:12:** The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon of Joash the Abiezrite	4. **11:1: Gilead/East** Now Jephthah the Gileadite, son of a prostitute… spoke before the LORD	4. **13:2: Dan/West** The angel of the LORD appeared… Samson shall begin to save Israel
5. **3:11: 40 years** and the land had rest for forty years	5. **3:30: 80 years** Moab was subdued, rest for eighty years	5. **4:23-24, 5:31: 40 years** God subdued Jabin … and the land had rest for forty years	5. **8:28: 40 years** The land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon	5. **12:7:** Jephthah judged Israel six years	5. **16:31:** Family bury him… he had judged Israel twenty years

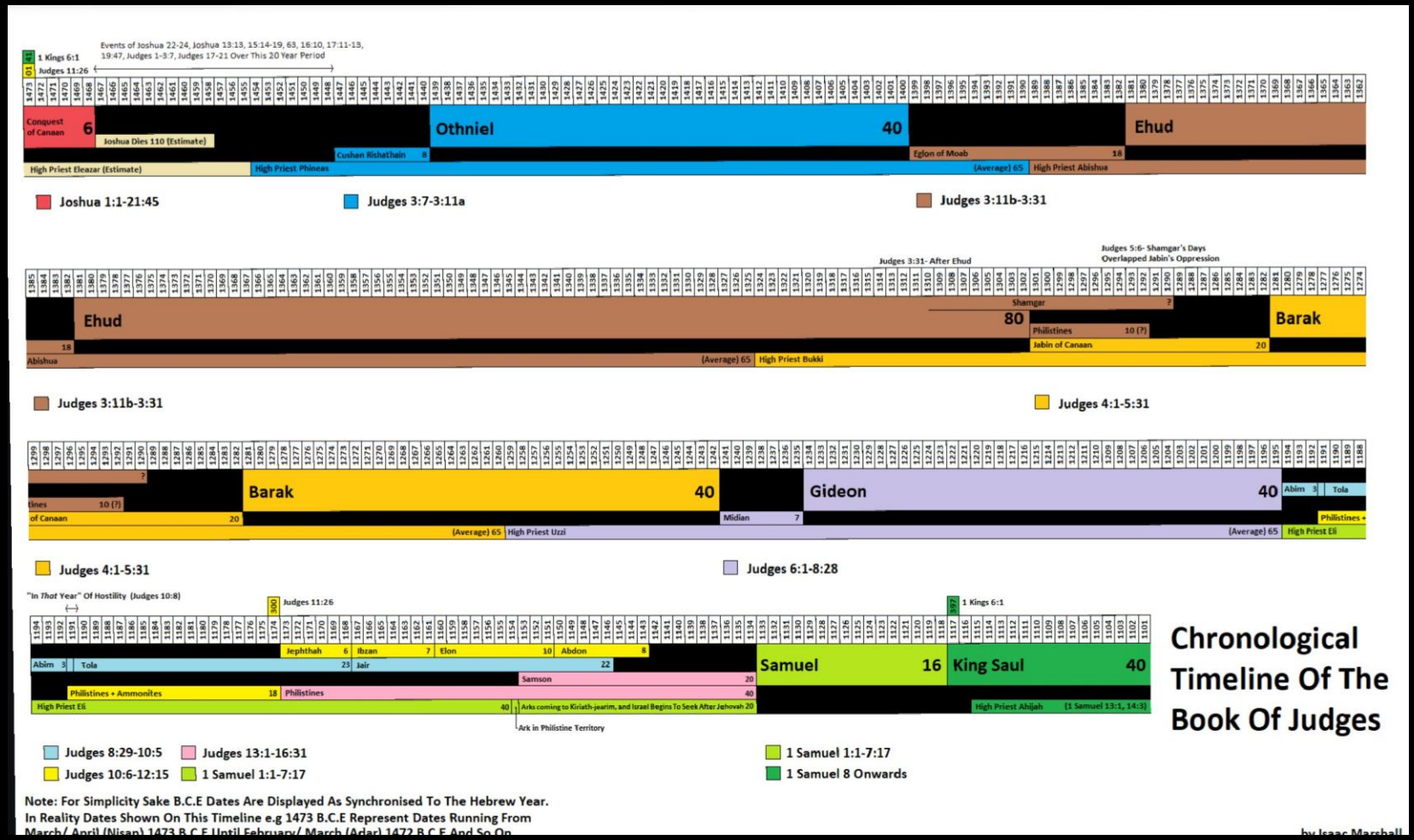
Practical:

While there are many failures in these characters, Heb 11:32-34 commends their faith;
"through faith conquered kingdoms, performed righteous acts, obtained promises, made strong out of weakness."

Studies in the Old Testament

Judges – The Structure

- The book of Judges covers about 350 years
  "In the four hundred and eighteenth year…4th year of Solomon's reign" 1 Chr 6:1



Judges

OT Order: 7

Chapters: 21

Section: History: Theocracy

Historical Setting: Israel moves in to occupy the land which the Lord had divided to them

OVERVIEW:

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1 Defeat

Chapter 1-2

Causes of failure

Incomplete obedience:
They could not drive them out...
They did not drive them out...
Manasseh did not drive out...
Nor did Ephraim, nor did Zebulun,
Nor did Asher, nor did Naphtali drive them out

Idolatry:
Then the children of Israel did evil…
and served the Baals
and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers

Intermarriage:
And they took their daughters to be their wives,
and gave their daughters to their sons;
and they served their gods.

2 Disobedience

Chapter 3-16

Cycles of failure

Repeated cycles of failure:

1. **Sin:** They did evil in the sight of the LORD
2. **Servitude:** They were delivered to their enemies
3. **Supplication:** They cried unto the LORD
4. **Salvation:** The LORD raised up judges
5. **Silence:** and the land had rest…

3 Disgrace

Chapter 17-21

Consequences of failure

Their failure seen in:

1. **The Religious area:** ch.17-18: in idolatry
2. **The Domestic area:** ch.19: in immorality
3. **The Political area:** ch.20-21 in Anarchy

Practical: Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness Romans 11:22