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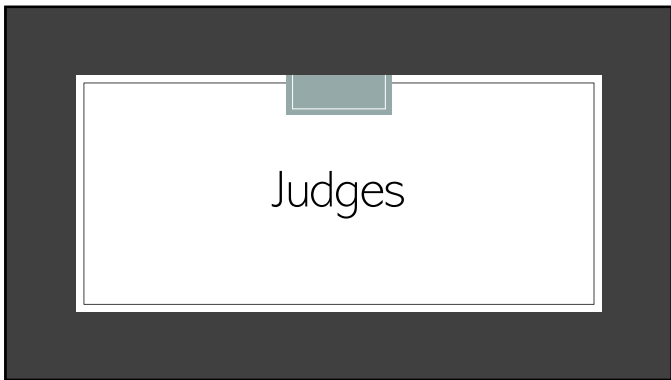
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Introduction to Judges

**WHO—Authorship**

- ✓ Perhaps Samuel

**WHO—Audience**

- ✓ Twelve Tribes of Israel during King Saul's reign

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Introduction to Judges

**WHEN**

- ✓ Approximately 1043 BC
- ✓ Perhaps the beginning of Saul's reign
- ✓ The book's events span from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson (~1055 BC)

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Introduction to Judges

**WHERE**

- ✓ Perhaps Ramah (where Samuel lived much of his life)
- ✓ Israel has begun a new era of a monarchy as this book is composed
- ✓ Samuel chronicles the past 300 years of life without a king and its devastating consequences
- ✓ This book whets the appetite for a king (compare with Ruth which whets the appetite for a specific king, David)

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## Introduction to Judges

### WHY

To recount Israel's history from the Conquest of the Land of Canaan to the Monarchy period, demonstrating that Israel needs Yahweh's choice of King as promised in Deuteronomy.

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## Introduction to Judges

### HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ King (or Kingdom, Rule; 1:7; 3:8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19; 4:2 (2x), 17, 23, 24 (2x); 5:3, 19 (2x); 8:18, 26, 31 (Abimelech, melech = king); 9:1, etc.)
- ✓ Salvation (or Saving, Savior; 2:16, 18; 3:9 (2x), 15, 31; 6:14, 15, 31, 36, 37; 7:2, 7; 8:22; 10:1, 12, 13, 14, etc.)
- ✓ Judge (or Judgment, Judging; 2:16, 17, 18 (3x), 19; 3:10; 4:10, 5; 10:2, 3; 11:27 (2x); 12:7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14; 13:12; 15:20; 16:31; 18:7)
- ✓ Eyes (specifically doing good or bad in one's eyes; 2:11; 3:7, 12 (2x); 4:1; 6:1, 17, 21; 10:6, 15; 13:1; 14:3, 7; 16:21; 17:6; 19:17, 24; 21:25)

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## Introduction to Judges

### The Judges

- ✓ Background of the Judges (Exod 18:13–27; Num 11:16–17; Deut 1:9–17; Josh 8:33; 23:2; 24:1)
- ✓ List of Judges
  - ❖ **Primary Judges**  
Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson
  - ❖ **Secondary Judges**  
Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

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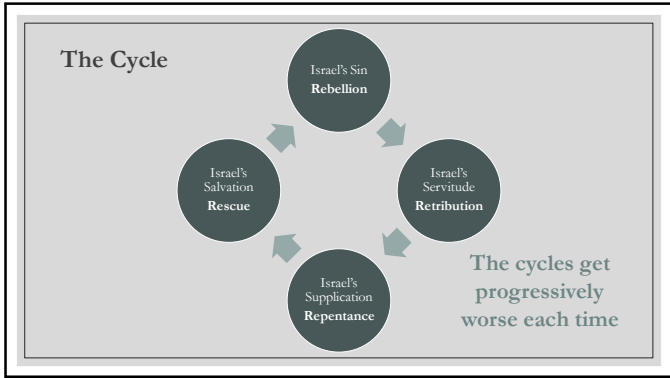
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**Introduction to Judges**

**HOW—Literary Structure**

In Judges 1:1 – 16:31, the author Samuel makes use of a common refrain—“They did evil in the eyes of Yahweh”—that neatly categorizes it into eight subsections.

In Judges 17:1 – 21:25, Samuel uses another common refrain—“There was no king in Israel”—to structure that section into three concluding segments.

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**Introduction to Judges**

**HOW—Literary Structure**

- ✓ The Era of Mission Failure (1:1 – 2:10)
- ✓ The Era of Sin and Deliverance (2:11 – 3:6)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Mesopotamia (Featured Judge—Othniel; 3:7–11)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Moab (Featured Judge—Ehud; 3:12–31)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Canaan (Featured Judge—Deborah; 4:1 – 5:31)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Midian (Featured Judge—Gideon; 6:1 – 10:5)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Ammon (Featured Judge—Jephthah; 10:6 – 12:15)
- ✓ Yahweh vs. Philistia (Featured Judge—Samson; 13:1 – 16:31)
- ✓ The Priests Need Yahweh’s King (17:1–13)
- ✓ The Tribes Need Yahweh’s King (18:1–31)
- ✓ All The People Need Yahweh’s King (19:1 – 21:25)

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Introduction to Judges

Why Need a King and Not a Judge?

- ✓ A King is **Permanent**
- ✓ A King commands full **Authority**
- ✓ A King can claim full **Ownership** and **Representation**

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