

TWELVE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout that judge's lifetime. For the LORD took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. (Judges 2:18–19)

1350–1310 BC OTHNIEL Caleb's nephew Delivered Israel from Arameans Led to 40 years of peace	1300–1275 BC EHUD From Tribe of Benjamin Delivered Israel from Moabites Led to 80 years of peace	1230 BC SHAMGAR Son of Anath Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad	1230 BC DEBORAH Prophet and judge Along with Barak and Jael, delivered Israel from Canaanites Led to 40 years of peace
1180–1140 BC GIDEON Delivered Israel from Midianites Led to 40 years of peace Son Abimelech seized throne of Shechem	1117–1094 BC TOLA From Tribe of Issachar Lived in hill country of Ephraim Judged for 23 years	1115–1094 TO 1093–1072 BC JAIR From Gilead Judged for 22 years Had 30 sons who owned 30 towns	1106–1100 BC JEPHTHAH From Gilead Delivered Israel from Ammonites Judged for 6 years
1104–1084 BC SAMSON From Tribe of Dan Delivered Israel from Philistines Killed more Philistines at death than in life	1100–1093 BC IBZAN From Bethlehem Had 30 sons and 30 daughters Judged for 7 years	1093–1083 BC ELON From Tribe of Zebulun Judged for 10 years	1083–1075 BC ABDON Son of Hillel Had 40 sons and 30 daughters Judged for 8 years

The Book of 1 Samuel also uses the word *judge* to describe the priest Eli (4:18) and the prophet Samuel (7:6, 15). All dates are conservative estimates.