

JUDGES

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Week 16: The One Who Works Wonders

Scripture Reading: Judges 13:1-25

- Samson is the TWELFTH & FINAL JUDGE

- He is the only judge with a *birth narrative & chosen to be a judge before he's even born!*

A REVIEW of all 12 Judges:

Judge	Reference	Tribe	Oppressor	Period of Oppression	Period of Rest	Total Length of Time*
Othniel	<u>3:7–11</u>	Judah	Mesopotamians	8 years (<u>3:8</u>)	40 years (<u>3:11</u>)	48 years
Ehud	<u>3:12–30</u>	Benjamin	Moabites	18 years (<u>3:14</u>)	80 years (<u>3:30</u>)	98 years
Shamgar	<u>3:31</u>		Philistines			
Deborah	Ch. <u>4–5</u>	Ephraim	Canaanites	20 years (<u>4:3</u>)	40 years (<u>5:31</u>)	60 years
Gideon	Ch. <u>6–8</u>	Manasseh	Midianites	7 years (<u>6:1</u>)	40 years (<u>8:28</u>)	47 years
Tola	<u>10:1–2</u>	Issachar			23 years (<u>10:2</u>)	23 years
Jair	<u>10:3–5</u>	Gilead-Manasseh			22 years (<u>10:3</u>)	22 years
Jephthah	<u>10:6–12:7</u>	Gilead-Manasseh	Ammonites		24 years (<u>10:8; 12:7</u>)	24 years
Ibzan	<u>12:8–10</u>	Judah or Zebulun?			7 years (<u>12:9</u>)	7 years
Elon	<u>12:11–12</u>	Zebulun			10 years (<u>12:11</u>)	10 years
Abdon	<u>12:13–15</u>	Ephraim			8 years (<u>12:14</u>)	8 years
Samson	Ch. <u>13–16</u>	Dan	Philistines	40 years (<u>13:1</u>)	20 years (<u>15:20; 16:31</u>)	60 years

*Added together, the dates in this column **total about 410 years**. However, many of the episodes in *Judges* overlap each other, unfolding in different parts of the land. To see this **chart online**, go to: https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/chart_07_01/

- Quickly forgotten heroes: **Samson's parents** are our main focus tonight
 - Manoah
 - “*The woman*” listed 19x in Ch's 13 & 14
- **Why did God choose them?** We're never directly told, but from the text we see:

1. They were unlikely people (verses 1-14)

- In verse 1, we're reminded that the **Philistines** have been silently lingering for **71 years**
- An **angel** appears to Samson's mother
 - She will give birth to a son
 - The family will participate in the Nazirite vow (first seen in Numbers 6):
 - **NO** cutting hair
 - **NO** drinking anything from the vine, non-alcoholic or alcoholic
 - **NO** contact with anything dead or unclean
 - Notice the calling of Samson: “*he shall begin to save*”
- She thinks she has been visited by a prophet
- In verses 9-14, Manoah must trust in this heavenly visitor & God's plan for them

2. They were trusting people (verses 15-20)

- The angel suggests an offering of atonement, symbolizing they have been washed clean and set apart for God's sovereign plan

- “*The one who works wonders*” will accept this offering & do wonderful things

- An appropriate response in verse 20

3. They were faithful people (verses 21-25)

- The woman’s faith in verse 23
 - She uses God’s personal name: **LORD**, “Yahweh”

 - She understands the law & the consequences of sin

- The Spirit is with Samson in verse 25

- **What do we learn from Judges 13:1-25?**
 - *We worship a God of promise*

 - *We worship a God of purpose*

 - *We worship a God of protection*