



The book of Judges

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

This book bears the name of the subject it deals with - a group of people who served as judges after Joshua's death and until Samuel, the prophet. Concerning the author of this book, there is quite a debate. Some have mentioned King Solomon. Others have preferred to say that the author remains anonymous. However, according to Jewish traditions, especially the Talmud, the Prophet Samuel would be the author. It is more likely that Samuel is the author when one considers the customs and events of the past of the people this text deals with. Moreover, the time of the judges was the time when the people of Israel did not yet have a king.

Date

Since Prophet Samuel could be the author, the date of writing of this book can be around 1004 BC, before the reign of King Saul.

The main theme

The Book of Judges tells the story of the people of Israel's condition after the death of Joshua, who not only led the people into the Promised Land, but also proceeded to distribute the land. After Joshua's death, the people fell into apostasy and rebellion against God with the inhabitants of Canaan whom God had asked him to drive out into the land. It is also a story of God's forgiveness granted to this rebellious people. Whenever the people fell into apostasy, God uses other people to punish them. But every time the same people become aware of their condition and ask for forgiveness, God uses judges to deliver them.

Outline of the book

1. The disobedience of the people (Jg.1:1-3:6)
2. The deliverance of the people by the judges (Jg.3 :7-16 :31)
3. The abandonment of the people of Israel (Jg.17 :1-21 :25)