

JUDGE

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In the Old Testament the word *judge* is used to translate the Hebrew word *shophet*. This word has a different connotation to our English word *judge*. In the Bible, it refers primarily to charismatic military leaders who were called by Jehovah to deliver His people. Jehovah Himself is referred to as a judge in Genesis 18:25 and other places in the Old Testament. The book of Judges contains the stories of twelve judges. In addition to these judges, Eli is identified as a judge at 1 Samuel 4:18, and Samuel is identified as a judge in 1 Samuel 7:6. Because Samuel was involved in the anointing of Saul, the first Israelite king, Samuel served as a transitional figure between judges and kings.

Related verses

Genesis 18:25

Judges 2:16–19

Judges 3:10

Judges 4:4

Judges 10:2–3

Judges 12:7–8, 11–13

Judges 15:20

Judges 16:31

Ruth 1:1

1 Samuel 4:18

1 Samuel 7:6

1 Samuel 8:1–2

Psalms 94:2

Isaiah 3:2

Isaiah 33:22

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