I. Conditions before the period of the judges (1:1 — 2:5)
   A. Political conditions: incomplete conquest (1:1-36)
      1. Judah’s victories and failure (1:1-20)
      2. Benjamin’s failure (1:21)
      3. Ephraim’s and Manasseh’s victories and failures (1:22-29)
         a. The victories (1:22-26)
         b. Manasseh’s failure (1:27-28)
         c. Ephraim’s failure (1:29)
      4. Zebulun’s failure (1:30)
      5. Asher’s failure (1:31-32)
      6. Naphtali’s failure (1:33)
      7. Dan’s retreat (1:34-36)
   B. Religious conditions: broken covenant (2:1-5)

II. Conditions during the period of the judges (2:6 — 16:31)
   A. Introduction: the religious character of the period (2:6 — 3:6)
      1. The character of the era under Joshua and the elders (2:6-10)
      2. The character of the era under the judges (2:11 — 3:6)
         a. The idolatry (2:11-13)
         b. The bondage (2:14-15)
         c. The deliverance (2:16-18)
         d. The repetition (2:19)
         e. The result (2:20 — 3:6)
            (1) The test (2:20-23)
            (2) The testing nations (3:1-6)
   B. The judges of the period (3:7 — 8:32)
      1. Othniel of Judah (3:7-11)
         a. Israel’s sin (3:7)
         b. Israel’s servitude to Chushan-rishathaim (3:8)
         c. Israel’s deliverance (3:9-10)
         d. Israel’s rest (3:11)
      2. Ehud of Benjamin (3:12-30)
         a. Israel’s sin (3:12)
         b. Israel’s servitude to Eglon (3:13-14)
         c. Israel’s deliverance (3:15-29)
            (1) The murder of Eglon (3:15-25)
            (2) The demise of Moabite power (3:26-29)
         d. Israel’s rest (3:30)
      3. Shamgar (3:31)
      4. Deborah and Barak (4:1 — 5:31)
         a. Israel’s sin (4:1)
         b. Israel’s servitude to Jabin (4:2-3)
         c. Israel’s deliverance (4:4-24)
            (1) The preparations for battle (4:4-11)
            (2) The defeat of Sisera’s army (4:12-16)
            (3) The death of Sisera (4:17-22)
            (4) The demise of Jabin (4:23-24)
         d. Israel’s victory song by Deborah (5:1-31)
            (1) The praise for Jehovah’s deliverance (5:1-5)
            (2) The condition of the people in bondage (5:6-11)
            (3) The deliverance of the people (5:12-31)
               (a) Israel’s approaching army (5:12-19)
               (b) The battle against Sisera (5:20-23)
5. Gideon (6:1 — 8:32)
   a. Israel’s sin (6:1)
   b. Israel’s servitude (6:2-6)
   c. Israel’s deliverance (6:7 — 8:27)
      (1) The promise of deliverance (6:7-10)
      (2) The summons of the deliverer (6:11-32)
         a) The angelic visit (6:11-18)
         b) The worship by Gideon (6:19-24)
         c) The destruction of the pagan altars (6:25-32)
      (3) The conflict for deliverance (6:33 — 8:27)
         a) The army gathered (6:33-35)
         b) The assurance of victory (6:36-40)
         c) The army reduced (7:1-8)
         d) The dream of the Midianite (7:9-14)
      e) The defeat of the Midianites (7:15 — 8:21)
         [1] The strategy (7:15-18)
         [2] The confusion (7:19-23)
         [5] The search for the Midian kings (8:4-21)
            a) The refusal of Succoth and Penuel (8:4-9)
            b) The capture of the kings (8:10-12)
            c) The punishment of Succoth and Penuel (8:13-18)
            d) The death of the Midian kings (8:19-21)
      f) Gideon’s failure (8:22-27)
   d. Israel’s rest (8:28)
   e. Gideon’s death (8:29-32)

C. Parenthesis: the tyranny of Abimelech (8:33 — 16:31)
   1. Israel’s idolatry (8:33-35)
   2. Shechem’s submission to Abimelech (9:1-57)
      a. Abimelech’s treachery to become king (9:1-6)
      b. Jothan’s speech (9:7-21)
         (1) The parable (9:7-15)
         (2) The application (9:16-21)
      c. Shechem’s treachery toward Abimelech (9:22-25)
      d. Gaal’s aborted rebellion (9:26-41)
      e. Abimelech’s capture of Shechem (9:42-49)
      f. Abimelech’s death at Thebez (9:50-57)
   3. Tola (10:1-2)
   4. Jair (10:3-5)
      a. Israel’s sin (10:6)
      b. Israel’s servitude (10:7-9)
      c. Israel’s supplication (10:10-16)
      d. Israel’s deliverance (10:17 — 12:7)
         (1) The preparations for battle (10:17 — 11:28)
            a) The armies gathered (10:17-18)
            b) The leader secured (11:1-11)
               [1] His background (11:1-3)
               [2] His covenant (11:4-11)
            c) The messages to Ammon (11:12-28)
         (2) The vow and victory in battle (11:29-40)
(a) The vow made (11:29-31)
(b) The victory secured (11:32-33)
(c) The vow observed (11:34-40)

(3) The strife with Ephraim (12:1-6)
(a) Ephraim’s jealousy (12:1-3)
(b) Ephraim’s defeat (12:4-6)

(4) The death of Jephthah (12:7)

6. Ibzan (12:8-10)
7. Elon (12:11-12)
   a. Israel’s sin and servitude (13:1)
   b. Israel’s deliverance (13:2 — 16:31)
      (1) The birth of Samson (13:2-25)
         (a) The angelic promise of a son (13:2-7)
         (b) The angelic reappearance (13:8-23)
            [1] The separated life of the child’s parents (13:8-14)
         (c) The birth and childhood of Samson (13:24-25)
      (2) The conflict with the Philistines (14:1 — 16:31)
         (a) Because of the woman of Timnah (14:1 — 15:20)
            [1] Samson’s desire for her (14:1-4)
            [2] Samson’s attempt to secure her (14:5-9)
               [a] The first journey to Timnah: the killing of the lion (14:5-7)
               [b] The second journey to Timnah: the honey in the lion (14:8-9)
               [a] The riddle and the reward (14:10-14)
               [b] The riddle solved by trickery (14:15-18)
               [c] The reward secured (14:19)
               [a] Her marriage to another (14:20 — 15:2)
               [b] Her several revengeful acts (15:3-8)
                  i. Samson’s revengeful acts (15:3-5)
                  ii. Philistine reprisals (15:6)
                  iii. Samson’s reaction (15:7-8)
            [5] Samson’s fights with the Philistine army (15:9-20)
               [a] The Philistine attack on Judah (15:9-13)
               [b] Samson’s single-handed victory (15:14-20)
         (b) Because of the harlot in Gaza (16:1-3)
            [1] Samson’s lust (16:1)
            [2] Philistine’s plot (16:2)
            [3] Samson’s escape (16:3)
         (c) Because of Delilah (16:4-31)
            [1] Samson’s entanglement with Delilah (16:4)
            [2] Delilah’s trickery to secure his source of strength (16:5-20)
               [a] The secret alluded to (16:5-14)
                  i. The seven fresh cords (16:5-9)
                  ii. The new cords (16:10-12)
                  iii. The seven locks (16:13-14)
               [b] The secret divulged (16:15-20)
               [a] The gathering for a Philistine feast (16:23-27)
               [b] The death of Samson with the Philistines (16:28-31)
III. Appendices (17:1 — 21:25)
   A. Gross idolatry during the time of the judges (17:1 — 18:31)
      1. Micah’s idolatry (17:1-13)
         a. An idol erected (17:1-6)
            (1) The silver recovered (17:1-3)
            (2) The image made (17:4)
            (3) The priest consecrated (17:5-6)
         b. A Levitical priest secured (17:7-13)
      2. Danite idolatry (18:1-31)
         a. The Danite search for an inheritance (18:1-10)
            (1) The spies before Micah’s Levite (18:1-6)
            (2) The spies at Laish (18:7)
            (3) The spies report (18:8-10)
         b. The Danite journey to Laish (18:11-31)
            (1) The journey commenced (18:11-13)
            (2) The robbery of Micah’s idol (18:14-26)
            (3) The capture of Laish (Dan) (18:27-29)
            (4) The establishment of idolatrous worship (18:30-31)
   B. Moral decline during the time of the judges (19:1 — 21:24)
      1. The crime at Gibeah (19:1-30)
         a. The Levite’s unfaithful concubine (19:1-2)
         b. The Levite’s trip to recover his concubine (19:3-9)
         c. The Levite’s journey to Gibeah (19:10)
         d. The immorality of the men of Gibeah (19:11-30)
            (1) The provisions of the host (19:11-16)
            (2) The alerting of the tribes of the action (19:17-21)
            (3) The murder-rape of the concubine (19:22-30)
      2. The war against Benjamin (20:1 — 21:24)
         a. The disgrace at Gibeah rehearsed (20:1-7)
         b. The resulting war (20:8-48)
            (1) Israel’s assembly for war (20:8-11)
            (2) Benjamin’s assembly for war (20:12-16)
            (3) Israel’s early defeats (20:17-28)
            (4) The near extermination of the Benjamites (20:29-48)
         c. The restoration of Benjamin (21:1-24)
            (1) The sorrow of Israel (21:1-7)
            (2) The securing of wives for the Benjamite remnant (21:8-24)
               (a) The virgins of Jabesh-Gilead (21:8-16)
               (b) The virgins at Shiloh (21:17-24)
   C. Conclusion (21:25)