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IX. Authorship of, date of and period covered by the book of Judges

A. Authorship of the book of Judges

1. We cannot say definitively who the author of Judges is.
2. But there is a good possibility that Samuel is the author because he was the last judge.

B. Date of the book of Judges

1. We know that it was written after there was a king in Israel.
2. This is seen from three passages which imply there was a king in Israel:
 - i. 17:6
 - ii. 18:1 - "In those days, there was no king in Israel..." implying that when it was written Israel did have a king.
 - iii. 19:1
3. Also when you read Judges 1:21, you find that not only would this book have to be written after there was a king in Israel, but it would also have to be written before David became king of all Israel in 1005 B. C. and conquered Jerusalem because in 1:21 we are told that the Jebusites still had control of Jerusalem.
4. And so when you look at the date, you find that it had to be written after there was a king in Israel. Israel had their 1st king, Saul, in 1052 B. C. so it had to be written after 1052 B. C. and sometime before David became king of all Israel in 1005 B. C.
5. 1052 to 1005 B. C. is the time that Samuel, the last judge, lived and so he could have been the author of Judges.

C. Period covered by the book of Judges

1. The period of the judges is going to cover 336 years.
2. It is going to go from the death of Joshua in 1388 B. C. all the way down to 1052 B. C. when Saul became king of Israel.
3. If you count up all of the oppression and all of the time that the judges ruled, you are going to find that there are more years than that. *simultaneously*
4. But you have to remember that some of the oppression occurred and some of the judges ruled ~~simultaneously so that they were contemporaneously,~~
5. That is why you have a smaller period than the total number you would get if you add up all of the oppression and all of the time the judges ruled in Israel.