Shoftim 1

Shoftim begins with the tribes going out to war. Yehudah and Shimon strike 10,000 men in Bezek, and Adoni-Bezek says “70 kings with their big thumbs and toes cut off have gleaned under my table” In perek Beis, an angel goes from Gilgal to Bochim and the cycle of the Shoftim is explained.

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| **Name?**  **& (perek; posuk)** | **Genealogy?** | **Length of “reign”?** | **Enemy?** | **Enemy length of rule?** | **Key details** |
| Osniel ben Kenaz  (1;13-15)  (3;7-11) | Brother of Calev, marries Achsah ben Calev | 40 years | Cushan Rishataim king of Aram Naharaim | 8 years | Strikes Kireat Sefer (Devir) Achsah (his wife) slides off a donkey, and asks her father Calev for better land. She receives the upper and lower springs. |
| Ehud ben Gera  (3;12-30) | Benyamin | 80 years | Eglon king of Moav | 18 years | Withered right hand. Double ended sword on right thigh.  Escapes to seirah. Gathers 10,000 men after blowing shofar on Mount Ephraim |
| Shamgar ben Anas  (3;31) | Levi | NA (several months, Seder Olam) | Plishtim | NA | kills 600 Plishtim with a cattle goad |
| Devorah  All of Perek 4+5 | Wife of Lapidos (/Barak ben Avinoam of Kedesh Naftali) | 40 years | Yavin king of Chazor (canaan), general is Sisera. | 20 years | Palm tree between Ramah & Bet El, on Mt Ephraim. Goes with Barak to collect 10,000 men from Mount Tavor. Sisera flees to Yael, who kills him with a tent peg.  Shiras Devorah (perek 5) |
| Gideon ben Yoash the Abi Ezrite  Perek 6-8 | Tribe of Menashe, from Ophrah | 40 years | Midian | 7 years | After an angel addresses him as a “Mighty hero”, he replies that he is the “smallest of Menashe”. Smashes the idols of Ophrah.  At Mount Gilad Hashem tells him that there are too many people in the army he had gathered. So, 22,000 men leave the battle force, leaving Gidon with 10,000 men.  The “water test” narrows it down to 300.  They win the battle using Jars, torches and shofars.  The Tribe of Ephraim was jealous that they weren't invited to the battle. Gidon appeases them.  They chase Tzevach and Tsalmuna.  desert thorns =Succos and Pnuel=break down tower as they refused to sustain Gidon’s army.  BY ask Gidon to be their king. He refuses and asks for their golden nose rings instead. He collects them and they add up to 1700 gold dinars, which he makes into an Ephod.  Gidon had 70 sons. |
| (Avimelech)  Perek 9 | Son of Gideon, Menashe, Shechem | 3 years | Yotam?  Gaal ben Eved?  BY? | NA | Explains to the people of Shechem why he should be king.  Yotam ben Gidon gives the moshel of the trees from Mout Gerrizim.  Rebellion of Gaal ben Eved  Sows Shechem with salt.  Hires Boorish men.  Kills 70 brothers at 1 rock.  Burns the Tower of Shechem with branches gathered from Mount Zalmon.  Injured in Tevez from the upper millstone. He asks his armour bearer to kill him. |
| Tola ben Puah  (10;1-2) | Puah ben Dodo, Yissachar | 23 Years | NA | NA | Buried Shamir, Mt Ephraim |

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| Yair Hagiladi  (10;3-5) | NA | 22 years | NA | NA | 30 sons, 30 colts, 30 towns.  Buried Kamon |
| Yiphtach Hagiladi  Perek 11,  (12;1-7) | Ben Gilead | 6 years | Amon | NA | Escapes to Land of Tov.  Confronts king of Amon.  Daughter sacrifice.  42,000 men of Ephraim killed (as they threatened to burn down Yiphtach’s house, as they were not invited to battle), this was done by asking them to say “Shibolet” |
| Ivzan  (12;8-10) | Bet Lechem | 7 years | NA | NA | 30 sons + 30 daughters married. |
| Elon  (12;11-12) | Zevulun | 10 years | NA | NA | Buried Ayalon, land of Zevulun |
| Avdon  (12;13-15) | Ben Hillel piratoni | 8 years | NA | NA | 40 sons, 30 grandsons, riding 70 colts. Buried Piraton, in the land of Ephraim on the Amalekite mountain |
| Shimshon  Perek 13-16 | Ben Manoach, Lived between Zorah and Eshtol.  Tribe of Dan | 20 years | Plishtim | 40 years | Nazir.  First wife from Timnah.  Riddle.  When he wants to get back with his wife during the harvest season, his father-in-law informs him that she has been given to his friend. He takes 300 foxes, and sets them on fire to run through the Plishti grain fields.  Goes to Rock of Etam in Lechi, in Yehudah. 3,000 men of Yehudah come to arrest him. They bind him with a rope, but when they get to the Plishtim, he breaks it and kills 1000 plishtim with it. He becomes thirsty and Hashem gives him water in the jawbone. He Changes the name of Ramat Lechi to En Hokeri (Spring of the caller).  Marries Delilah, 1100 silver bribe.  Shimshon is brought to Gaza and bounded in copper fetters. His eyes are gouged out and he is made to grind grain in prison.  Kills 3,000 Plishitm in his death, “More than in his lifetime”. |

After the judges, we have the storey of Micha, followed by the concubine at Giveah.