

Contents

General preface	5
Author's preface	8
Chief abbreviations	9
Introduction	11
1. The Lord, the Judge (1:1 – 3:6)	17
2. Ehud: the rule of the left hand (3:7–31)	34
3. Deborah and Barak: the 'us-and-them' distinction (4:1 – 5:31)	48
4. Gideon: overwhelming odds (6:1 – 8:35)	67
5. Abimelech: something completely different (9:1 – 10:5)	89
6. Jephthah: a man of his word (10:6 – 12:15)	106
7. Samson: set apart for God (13:1 – 16:31)	125
8. The top and bottom of it (17:1 – 21:25)	150