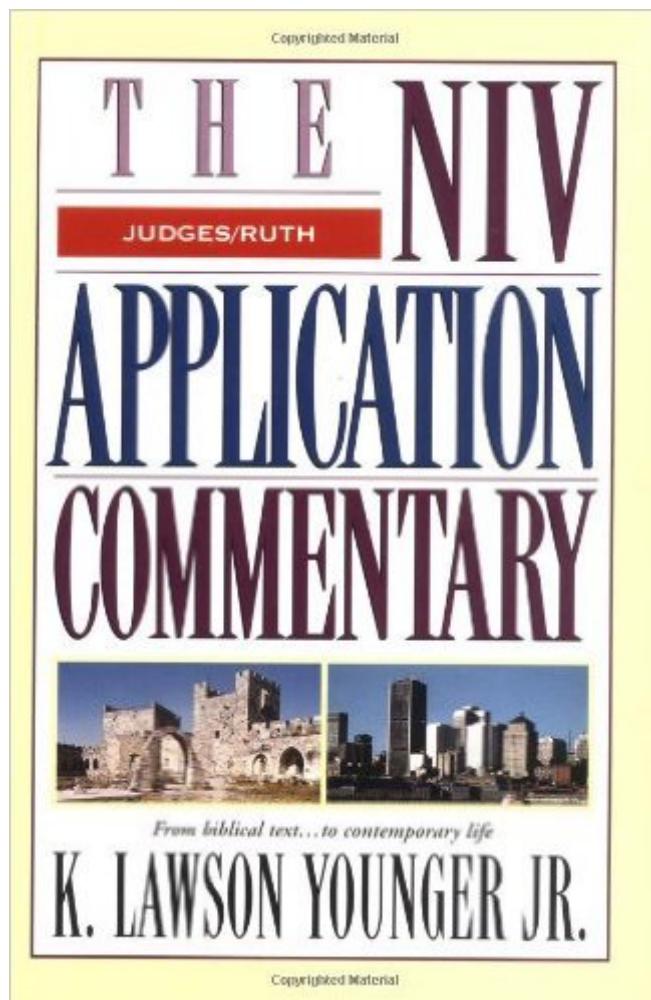


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Judges, Ruth (The NIV Application Commentary)



Synopsis

The concept of judgment is at odds with today's culture, which considers it a sin to suggest there is such a thing as sin. Perhaps that is partly because we have seen all too clearly the fallibility of those who judge. What many of us long for is not judgment but righteousness and deliverance from oppression. That is why the books of Judges and Ruth are so relevant today: Judges, because it reveals a God who employs very human deliverers but refuses to gloss over their sins and the consequences of those sins; and Ruth, because it demonstrates the far-reaching impact of a righteous character. Exploring the links between the Bible and our own times, Dr. K. Lawson Younger Jr. shares literary perspectives on the books of Judges and Ruth that reveal ageless truths for our twenty-first-century lives. Most Bible commentaries take us on a one-way trip from our world to the world of the Bible. But they leave us there, assuming that we can somehow make the return journey on our own. They focus on the original meaning of the passage but don't discuss its contemporary application. The information they offer is valuable--but the job is only half done! The NIV Application Commentary Series helps bring both halves of the interpretive task together. This unique, award-winning series shows readers how to bring an ancient message into our postmodern context. It explains not only what the Bible meant but also how it speaks powerfully today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Commentaries provide the lens through which most people understand scripture either through

personal study or the preaching that they are exposed to. This makes them important to our faith. When I am not teaching, I read commentaries devotionally. The Book of Judges famously reads: In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6 ESV). Not coincidentally, the postmodern period is characterized by its highest value--equality. Tension between different groups in society over the rights of individuals and the rights of the community highlight, in part, change in the values held most dearly [1]. The role of individual initiative in the Book of Judges clearly speaks to the moral challenges in our own times [2]. The Book of Ruth, by contrast, paints a picture of God's providence in the midst of otherwise chaotic and desperate lives. Younger describes the purpose of the Book of Judges as: the consequences of disobedience to God with the resultant moral degeneration that characterized the history of this period (23). A judge was more of a tribal leader, not a government official in charge of deciding legal matters (22). Leadership was less formal, more charismatic. The book ends on the period of the judges with the death of Joshua and the coronation of King Saul--a period of no more than 400 years (24). Ruth, being the great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17), also lived during this period. The structure of the Book of Judges aids in observing the moral degeneration of both the judges and the people. Younger notes the following cycle being repeated throughout the accounts: 1. Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh; 2. Yahweh gives/sells them into the hands of oppressors; 3.

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