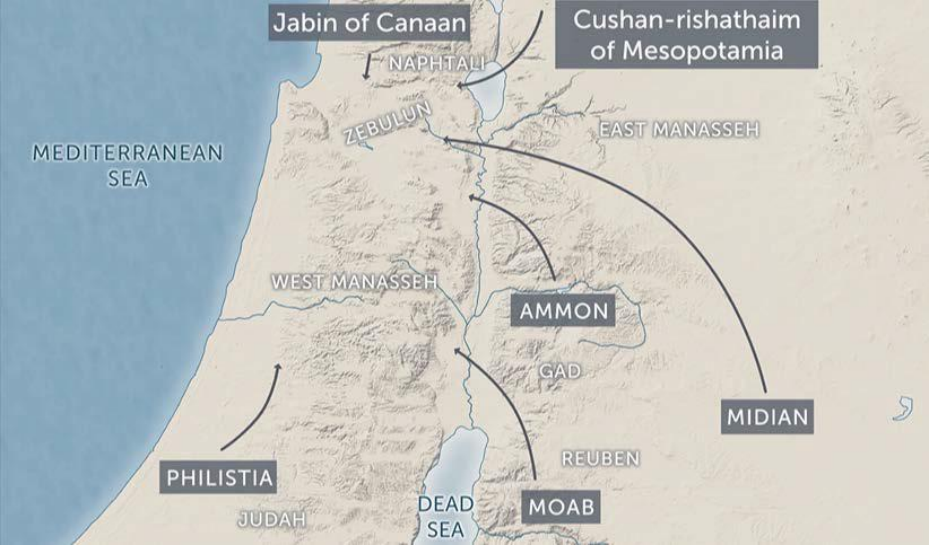


Timeline of Truth – Judges 3:7-11 – Othniel, Faithful Foreigner

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| <p>⁷ So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Baal – the Canaanite storm god, responsible for rain and fertility.</i> • <i>Asherahs – the Canaanite mother of the gods and goddess of the sea.</i> | <p>1. Israel Did _____ In the Sight of the Lord:</p> <p>a. lit. “the evil” The next two phrases describe THE evil</p> <p>b. They forgot God This means that they ignored God and focused their attention, energy, time etc, which God alone deserves, on something else:</p> <p>c. They served idols (“served” could be translated “worked for”)</p> |
| <p>⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.</p> | <p>2. The _____ of the Lord Was Hot Against Israel:</p> <p>a. God’s anger lit. “The nose of the Lord burned against Israel”</p> <p>b. God gives Israel into the hands of foreigners Cushan-Rishathaim means “Cushan of double wickedness” or “dark, double wicked one”</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>c. Israel served for 8 years We should not expect that when we behave wickedly, that God will let it go.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prov 10:29 The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, But destruction <i>will come</i> to the workers of iniquity. • Prov 21:15 It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction <i>will come</i> to the workers of iniquity. <p>“First, when people abandon the Lord in favor of any other allegiance, they absolve Him of any obligation to them. God is not obligated to help His people if they are faithless. In fact, they render Him their enemy and may expect His judgment. In the book of Deuteronomy, we read over and over again, if the Israelites will ever act like Canaanites, God will treat them like Canaanites.” - Block</p> |
| <p>⁹ When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.</p> | <p>3. Israel _____ Out to the Lord:</p> <p>a. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord This is not a cry of repentance, but rather a cry for help or relief. It is a cry of anguish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cried - צָעַק – <i>za’aq</i> - cry, cry out, call • cry, cry out, call -- Qal 1. <i>call</i>, to one's aid, sq. acc. pers. 2. <i>cry, cry out</i>, in need: The basic meaning of this root is "to cry for help in time of distress." In the Qal stem, the word is used almost exclusively in reference to a cry from a disturbed heart, in need of some kind of help. The cry is not in summons of another, but an expression of the need felt. |

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| <p>“Brother” of Caleb</p> <p>The term “brother” in Hebrew doesn’t just mean “sibling.” It could also mean a “kinsman,” or somebody associated with somebody else. Some have suggested that Othniel was the nephew of Caleb, and I think that’s very possible. It could be that Othniel represents the third generation after the conquest. – Way</p> | <p>4. The Lord _____ Up a Deliverer:</p> <p>a. “Deliverer”</p> <p>Deliverer - יָשָׁא – <i>yasha’</i> – deliver or save – this is a political/military “savior”</p> <p>“Who delivered them” – same word here (in verb form)</p> <p>God did not deliver Israel because of what they did or did not do – He delivered Israel based on who He is.</p> <p>b. Othniel</p> <p>His name means “the Lord is my Strength.”</p> <p>Judges 1:12-13 Then Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife." ¹³ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife.</p> |
| <p>Another thing that’s said about Othniel in the passage is that he is a son of Kenaz. Now, “son of Kenaz” is a title that is given to Caleb. Achsah is also included in this group, and Othniel himself. The son of Kenaz, or Kenizzite, is something that we learn about in the book of Joshua, as well as here in the book of Judges. The Kenizzite seem to be faithful foreigners.</p> <p>They were not Israelites actually, and that might strike you as surprising because you might think of Caleb as the epitome of an early Israelite, the epitome of a faithful Israelite. I would agree, he is one of the most faithful Israelites, who was praised for his great loyalty to God, but ethnically he’s an outsider. He is an Israelite by faith, even though he is ethnically an outsider. The whole family of Caleb, including Achsah and Othniel need to be regarded as “faithful foreigners.” I would classify them in the same category that you might put Rahab or Ruth, and as we go through Judges, maybe we should also throw in Jael, which we’ll talk about later. These are all examples of faithful foreigners.</p> <p>Now, why is it noteworthy that Othniel is a foreigner? He is the first judge; he is the idyllic judge. In many ways, he defines in the book what a judge and a cycle ought to look like. I think, the fact that the Judah representative was a foreigner is actually an indictment on the majority tribe. Judah was the majority tribe; they were the biggest tribe, and you would think if you could find a faithful judge in any tribe, it would be in Judah. But there’s not one ethnic Judahite to represent the group, rather there’s this foreigner who has associated himself with Judah, and he comes to represent what Judah ought to be. I think this is perhaps a subtle indictment that the narrator is presenting for us. – Dr. Ken Way</p> | |
| <p>¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.</p> <p><i>Othniel represents the best of the judges. There is no criticism in the narrative of anything he does. The narrative focuses on God’s deliverance. As we progress through Judges, we will see that this is not the case. Moving forward the judges get worse and worse until we get to Samson who did very little (if anything) right.</i></p> | <p>5. God _____ Israel:</p> <p>a. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the OT: The Spirit of God did not permanently reside on a person. “God’s power and presence are given to these characters in order to do a specific task for a specific amount of time.” – Way • In the NT: The Holy Spirit permanently seals (Eph 1:13-14), indwells (1 Cor 3:16), baptizes (1 Cor 12:13), and gives spiritual gifts (Rom 12:6) to all who believe in Jesus Christ <p>b. He judged/went out to war</p> <p>“Went out to war” seems to describe what it meant to judge in this instance.</p> <p>c. The Lord delivered the enemy into his hands</p> <p>Judges 2:20-21 ²⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, ²¹ "I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,</p> <p>The Lord chose not to drive these people out and thus they were not driven out...the Lord chose to fight for Israel and Israel was delivered.</p> <p>d. He prevailed over the enemy - To Be Strong - אָזַז – <i>‘azaz</i> - be strong</p> |
| <p>¹¹ So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.</p> | <p>6. The Land Had _____:</p> <p>a. The rest lasted 40 years (Rest - שָׁקֵט – <i>shaqat</i> - be quiet, undisturbed)</p> <p>7. The Deliverer _____:</p> |

Two Primary Lessons:

1. “God is not obligated to help His people if they are _____. In fact, they render Him their enemy and may expect His judgment.” – Block
2. **God will _____ His plan in His way, regardless of the obedience of people.** People may be punished and under great misery, but God will, by His undeserved grace, keep His plan on course and His control intact.