

Bible Study on Judges
JUDGES 3:1-11: OTHNIEL THE IDEAL JUDGE

Review: In Judges 2:11-19 is the recurring cycle found throughout the rest of the book.

- Israel turns away from the LORD to serve Canaanite gods (2.11-13)
- The LORD delivers Israel into the hands of their enemies who oppress them (2.14-15a)
- Israel cries out in distress (2.15b)
- The LORD raises up a judge to deliver them from oppression (2.16-19)

- The Judges were primarily military leaders who led in battle much like a king would.
- The judges ruled *different areas* of Israel, and some were ruling *at the same time*.

1. Judges 3.1-7. Israel fails the test and turns away from the LORD

3.7. “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.”

2. Judges 3.8. The LORD delivers Israel into the hands of their enemies who oppress them.

3.8: “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.”

3. Judges 3.9a. Israel cries out in distress. “They cried out to the LORD.”

*Crying out during oppression is part of the regular cycle (2:15, 18; 3:9, 15; 6:6-7; 10:10).

4. Judges 3.9b-11. The LORD raises up Othniel to deliver His oppressed people

APPLICATION

- The visible church is still warned about the danger of idolatry (1 Cor. 10:7, 14; 1 John 5:21).
- The apostasy of a local church
- The apostasy of an individual