

Israel's first judge

OTHNIEL

Judges 3:7-11

One godly person can impact many others

I. ISRAEL'S SITUATION

- Note their cycle of sin

A. DEFILEMENT (7)

1. Doing evil > sin
2. Forgetting God
3. Serving Baal

B. DISPAIR (8-9a)

1. Slavery (8)
2. Sighing (9a)

II. GOD'S DELIVERER

A. HE IS INTERESTING - Judges 1:13 and 3:9b

1. Note that Othniel is either Caleb's younger half-brother or his nephew
2. The idea that he is Caleb's nephew seems to best fit the context

B. HE IS UNIQUE - Judges 2:10

- Being unlike his generation that does not know the Lord

C. HE IS COURAGEOUS - Judges 1:12-13

1. His name means "lion of God"
2. He steps up to the challenge of conquering Debir

D. HE IS BLESSED - Judges 1:12-15

1. With a godly heritage from Caleb
2. A wise and ambitious wife Achsah - See Judges 1:14-15

E. HE IS EMPOWERED - Judges 3:10a

- “The Spirit of the Lord came upon him”

1. He is divinely commissioned and uniquely equipped
2. “He is provided a spirit of power to excite him” [Matthew Henry, “Judges,” in BibleWorks]
3. Even though he was a good and godly man, he needed God’s spirit to be fully useful

F. HE IS CAPABLE - Judges 3:10b

- “and he judged Israel”

1. As Caleb’s son-in-law, he likely succeeded him as the head of Judah
2. He was able to judge an often fickle and faithless people
3. His position required a righteous life and consistent character
4. He had to be familiar with Scripture and pass judgement accordingly
5. He was required to enforce the law and punish sin
6. He needed to be fair, unflappable, and unbribable

G. HE IS SUCCESSFUL - Judges 3:10c

1. First he got his people in order
2. Then he prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim and thereby prevented their continued godless behavior and influence

H. HE IS IMPACTFUL - Judges 3:11

- By his efforts, the land had rest for 40 years

1. Giving them a peaceful rest > No internal or external threats
2. Giving them a pious rest > Living in right relationship with God

CONCLUSION:

One godly person can impact generations!

Othniel’s heritage is significant ...

- About 350 years later we find his descendent serving in King David’s army as the leader of 24,000 soldiers - See I Chronicles 27:1 & 15

We never know the impact we might have for generations to come ...

- What we do know is that as we remain faithful, God will use us for His glory

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