

Judges Study #2: Judges 3:7-31

Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar

Intro: Have you ever lived in a situation where you felt oppressed? If so, how did you feel? If you have not been in that situation, can you imagine what someone might feel in such circumstances?

Although these initial judge narratives are relatively brief, they set to set the standard and establish the pattern for each of the following judges. Othniel shows us what to expect, while Ehud and Shamgar illustrate those expectations.

Read Judges 3:7-11

Question #1: The account of Othniel stretches only five verses. However, the narrative sets the pattern for all the other major judge narratives. Can you identify all seven parts of this recurring judge cycle?

Question #2: The Othniel account also identifies three basic characteristics of a judge. What are they?

Question #3: What does it mean to forget the Lord in context of Israel's covenantal relationship with God? Given the tendencies of our own hearts, how are you protecting yourselves from forgetting the grace of God?

Read Judges 3:12-30

Question #4: The account of Ehud and Eglon is filled with interesting detail and description. What physical trait is specified for each man? Why are these traits important to the narrative?

Question #5: What is your reaction to the fact that God's chosen agent is an assassin? What do we learn about God?

Read Judges 3:31

Question #6: Contrast Shamgar's deliverance with that brought by Othniel and Ehud. Which judge seems the most ideal? Why?

Question #7: Does it give you hope and reassurance that God is a God of justice, especially as you look around at a world of darkness where there are injustices, where bad people go free and innocent people are wronged?

Application:

Have you seen instances of injustice in your own circles? Even in the church? What will you do about it?