

Judges 3:5-11 **Judge Othniel**

Sins of Israel

⁵ Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁶ And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

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.

Judgment of God

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.

Othniel, son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother

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.

Source of Othniel's power

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. ¹¹ So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Sins of Israel

- ✧ Israel disobeyed God by allowing the nations of the **Canaanites**, the **Hittites**, the **Amorites**, the **Perizzites**, the **Hivites**, and the **Jebusites** to remain in the land.
- ✧ Israel intermarried with the forbidden nations.
- ✧ Israel served the gods of the forbidden nations.

God had commanded:

Exodus 23:20-26

²⁰ "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ **Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions;** for My name is in Him.

²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³ For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the **Amorites** and the **Hittites** and the **Perizzites** and the **Canaanites** and the **Hivites** and the **Jebusites**; and I will cut them off.

²⁴ **You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.**

25 **So you shall serve the LORD your God**, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. 26 No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. NKJV

Exodus 34:12-17

12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 **But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images** 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. 17 You shall make no molded gods for yourselves. NKJV

Numbers 33:50-56

50 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, 51 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 then **you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;** 53 **you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.** 54 And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. 55 **But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.** 56 **Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.**" NKJV

Deuteronomy 7:1-5

1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the **Hittites** and the **Girgashites** and the **Amorites** and the **Canaanites** and the **Perizzites** and the **Hivites** and the **Jebusites**, seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, **you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them.** You shall **make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.**

3 **Nor shall you make marriages with them.** You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: **you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.** NKJV

- ✧ 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. [\[Judges 3:7\]](#)

Judgment of God

- ✧ **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. [\[Judges 3:8\]](#)

Othniel, son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother

- ✧ 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**. [\[Judges 3:9\]](#)

- ✧ Caleb's family remained faithful to God and Caleb's nephew was chosen as the first judge in Israel..

Source of Othniel's power

- ✧ 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. So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. [\[Judges 3:10-11\]](#)

- ✧ The ability to stand for the Lord in the face of a rebellious people was from the same source as it is today.

- ✧ They were baptized by the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Yehowah came upon them. [\[Acts 1:8\]](#)

- ✧ It was the same as for Moses and Joshua. [\[Numbers 11:16-29, 27:18, Deuteronomy 34:9\]](#)