

Twelve Lessons

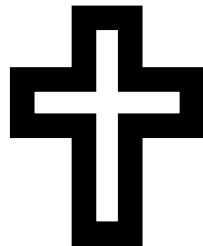
on

Judges

Compiled and Written

by

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\$6.00

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OTHNIEL – LESSON 1

Judges 1:12, 13; 3:8-11; Joshua 15:15-20

Introduction: The theme of Judges could be, “*The one thing we learn about history is that we do not learn from history.*”

1. There were seven apostasies and seven deliverances.
2. Counting Eli and Samuel, there were fifteen judges in all.
3. An Important Statement: Four times (Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25), “*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*” Joshua could be used as a case for the actions of the spiritual man while Judges could be used as a case for the actions of the carnal man.
4. Suggested Outline for Judges: Rebellion, Retribution, Repentance, and Restoration.
5. Main Problem: Compromise – Apathy leads to Apostasy and Anarchy.
6. The Judges: Thirteen plus Eli and Samuel – 15 in all.
 - a. Othniel (1:12,13; 3:8-11)
 - b. Ehud (3:12-30)
 - c. Shamgar (3:31)
 - d. Barak with Deborah (4-5)
 - e. Gideon (6-8)
 - f. Tola (10:1)
 - g. Jair (10:3-5)
 - h. Jephthah (10:6--12:17)
 - i. Ibzan (12:8-10)
 - j. Elon (12:11-12)
 - k. Abdon (12:13-15)
 - l. Samson (13-16)
7. Nine Major Events in the Era of the Judges
 - a. Twelve Military Reformers – The Judges
 - b. A Blood Butcher – Abimelech – Judges 9
 - c. An Idol-worshiping Son – Micah, a mother-spoiled thief – Judges 17, 18
 - d. A Cowardly Levite – Judges 19-21
 - e. A Moabite Girl – Ruth – Ruth 1-4
 - f. A Dedicated Mother – Hannah – I Sam. 1:1-2:11,18-21
 - g. An Undisciplined Priest – Eli – I Sam. 2:12-17,22-36; 4:1-22
 - h. Some Frustrated Philistines – I Sam. 5-6
 - i. A Circuit-riding Preacher – Samuel – I Sam. 7
8. “Seven Weak Things” by Hy Pickering, 1,000 Subjects for Speakers and Students.
 - a. Left hand – Judges 3:21
 - b. The ox goad – Judges 3:31
 - c. A nail – Judges 4:21
 - d. A piece of a millstone – Judges 9:53
 - e. A pitcher and trumpet – Judges 7:20
 - f. A Jaw bone of an ass – Judges 15:16

Lesson Goals:

1. Reveal, through studying the typology of Othniel, that the life of the Believer is full of battles.
2. To gain knowledge of Biblical principles that will aid the believer in overcoming the battles of the Christian life.
3. Understand the different forms that battles take and God’s purpose for these battles – to test and train the believer.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Nether – *tachtiy* – low, lower, lowest (Strong’s Concordance).
2. Fetters – An archaic term for shackles or chains used for binding prisoners either by the wrists or ankles (Judges 16:21; 2 (Unger’s Bible Dictionary).

I. HIS BACKGROUND

A. Name – Othniel – “powerful one or Lion of God” – (A type of Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah)

B. Father – Kenaz (to hunt, hunter) – a younger brother of Caleb

C. Sons – Hathath (dismay) and Meonothai (habitative) – It appears his boys didn’t turn out like their father.

II. HIS BATTLE (Possessing our Possessions)

A. The Triumph

1. The Battle for Hebron – The motive was the mountain – He was with Caleb when he conquered the mountain.
 - a. Caleb conquered Hebron (league, confederacy) – Kirthatharba (fourfold city)
 - 1) Hebron was where Abraham had pitched his tent – Gen. 13:18

- 2) Hebron was where Abraham had built an altar
 - 3) Hebron was the only land Abraham ever owned. There, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their wives were buried.
 - 4) Hebron was where God had spoken to Abraham, face to face, and given the promises of the land.
 - 5) Hebron, later, was the capital city of Judah under King David.
 - 6) Hebron, lastly, became the possession of the Kohathite Levites that carried the precious vessels of the Tabernacle. Point: The enemy would like to destroy our heritage.
- b. Caleb conquered Hebron and slew the three giants (Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai), sons of Anak. These four giants represent the obstacles in the Christian's life that keep him from "possessing our possessions."
- 1) Anak – "to strangle" – represents that chief enemy, "doubt," that strangles our faith.
 - 2) Sheshai – "whitish", "bleached" – to turn pale, lose your color – represents "compromise", that strangles our convictions.
 - 3) Ahiman – "portion" – represents "apathy" that strangles our desire.
 - 4) Talmai – "a ridge, bank, terrace, furrow" – represents "trials", that strangle our progress.
- c. Caleb is a type of Christ conquering our mountains.
2. The Battle for Debir – The Motive was the Marriage.
- a. Othniel Conquered Debir (oracle) – Kirjathsepher (town of books) – A center of culture for the Canaanite people and the location of a pagan temple. It was occupied by the Anakim. Not only will the giants keep you from the mountain but also from the marriage.
- b. Two Things that Motivated Othniel
- 1) His head – He had seen Caleb conquer the mountain and he knew he could conquer the city. Faith in his leader motivated him to step out and conquer.
 - 2) Since Christ has conquered the giants (Satan, sin, death, and hell), the child of God should let this motivate him to conquer every contrary thing in his life. Rom. 8:32 – "*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.*"
 - 3) His heart – He had seen Achsah and he had to conquer the city. His love motivated him to step out and conquer. "Achsah" – name means "fetter, anklet, tie, to make a tinkling sound." She had arrested, fettered his heart.
 - 4) He was not disappointed in her. She asked and received from her father, Caleb, the upper and nether springs.
 - 5) His bride is a type of the Church – Filled with the Spirit of God for our spiritual needs (the upper springs) and for our temporal needs (the nether or lower springs). Typically hereby we are taught as children to ask humbly and expect confidently great blessings (Luke 11:13; 1 John 3:22), both the upper or heavenly and the nether or earthly, from our Father (Ps. 81:10; 84:11; Is. 33:16; John 4:13-14; 7:37-39; 15:7; Eph. 3:20) (Faussett's Bible Dictionary).
- c. Othniel is a type of Christ consummating our marriage. We're going to the marriage, not on our strength or our victory over sin but because of His strength and His victory over sin.
- d. Ivor Powell in his book, *Bible Cameos*, has this good outline:
- OTHNIEL...who won a bride in a battle (Judges 1:12,13)
 - I. Love Concerned – vs. 12 – "*Achsah, my daughter to wife*"
 - II. Love Challenged – vs. 12 – "*he that smiteth Kirjath-sepher, and taketh it*"
 - III. Love Conquering – vs. 13 – "*And Othniel...took it*"

B. The Training – Judges 3:1 – "*Now these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them*" – The Nations – vs. 3 – "*Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites*"

1. Philistines – migratory or migrating – "The Devil doesn't want the Christian to find the will of God."
2. Canaanites – a peddler – Satan tries to get the Christian to "cheapen" the Gospel.
3. Sidonians – to lie alongside to catch – Satan is ever trying to "trap" or "catch" the Christian.
4. Hivites – a villager – Satan tries to get us to be "selfish" and just care about "our own."

C. The Testing – Judges 3:2 – "*to teach them war*" – The nations in the land of Canaan would become thorns that would afflict Israel and traps that would ensnare them. Lesson they learned:

1. The enemy can never be trusted (the world, the flesh, and the devil). That which we tolerate, allow, admit, and indulge will eventually defeat us.
2. The battle is never over! We can never relax or get familiar with the enemy! Vs. 5 – "*And the children*"

of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites". Familiarity breeds sin – vs. 7 – “*And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgot the Lord their God, and served Baalim and the groves.*” Apathy leads to apostasy and anarchy!!

3. God always chastises the sins of His people. Charles Spurgeon said, “That God never allows His people to sin successfully.” Their sin will either destroy them or it will invite the chastening hand of God.
4. God is a covenant-keeping God – vs. 9-11 – It was not their faithfulness, but God’s faithfulness.
5. God uses the most unlikely soldiers – “Othniel”
 - a. Othniel was ALWAYS willing – Judges 1, He jumped for the opportunity. God could count on instant obedience.
 - b. Othniel was dependent on the power of God and died right – vs. 10-11