

Othniel: The Ideal Judge

3:7-3:11

Serving evil gods leads to serving a wicked oppressor. 3:7,8

- Doing evil/idolatry angers God and moves Him to use Doubly Wicked of Mesopotamia (Aram-naharaim, see Gen. 24:10) to discipline His people, which is something He still does today, Heb. 12:6,7.
- God *sold* His people (tough term!) to serve this evil king, which is very appropriate since they had chosen to do evil and serve evil gods.

Crying out to the Lord leads to deliverance. 3:9-10

- *Crying out* only explicitly included repentance in 10:10, but I Sam. 12:8-11 implies such cries were often accompanied by repentance. What does this also suggest for us? Lk. 15:11, I Jn. 1:9
- Compare Othniel to later judges. Recall his bravery and obedience seen earlier in 1:11-13. He is the last exemplary male we will meet.
- Spirit empowering: 6:34, 11:29, 14:6, 19, 15:14, cf. I Sam. 10:10, 11:6. Contrast this with the Spirit's empowering in Acts: 1:8, 2:4, 4:8, 31

Victory by Othniel leads to forty years of rest. 3:11

Rather than spiritualize *rest* to refer to heaven, how should we view this rest/peace? Consider I Tim. 2:1,2. How should this affect us over the next few weeks?



The book of Judges shows the immense power of sin and our present inability to avoid its grip. What will this truly ugly period of history help us to realize?