

## OTHNIEL – GOD’S DELIVERER

--JUDGES 3:7-11--

### INTRODUCTION:

Judges is a book about a nation who abandoned the LORD as their God and their leader and longed for a human leader to lead them. This nation had in the past some exceptional leaders given to them by God, but now they seemed to have none. God will raise up leaders for Israel at specific times in this book, not national leaders but local heroes, these leaders are called judges. This morning we will look at the first of these judges, a man we met in chapter 1, a man who captured a city to win a wife. His name is Othniel. When God raised Othniel up to be a judge in Israel, the transition from the age of Joshua to the age of the judges was complete.

### I. THE NEED FOR A DELIVERER (Judges 3:7-8)

- a. This passage opens with, “*The sons of Israel did what was \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the LORD...*” (Judges 3:7a, NASB95)
- b. Why do people turn away from God? Because they find the world more \_\_\_\_\_, they do not view it as dangerous or of being in trouble.
- c. When we speak of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, we must be careful to distinguish between God’s dealings with His children and His acts of judgment in general. (Ephesians 2:12b; Hebrews 12:6-11)
- d. In verse 8 we are introduced to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s discipline in this passage, and he is a terrible tyrant.
- e. The second half of his name, *rishathaim* means “doubly \_\_\_\_\_” and rhymes with the second part of his place of origin.
- f. As evil and as doubly wicked this man was and many after him, we do know, from the history of Othniel and from Scripture as a whole, that when \_\_\_\_\_ appears it is never ultimate.

### II. THE CRY FOR A DELIVERER (Judges 3:9)

- a. After \_\_\_\_\_ years suffering at the hands of Cushan-rishathaim the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. (Judges 2:11-19)
- b. Because of this we cannot attach too much importance to this \_\_\_\_\_, it is not essential to what happens here or anywhere else in Judges.

### III. GOD PROVIDES A DELIVERER (Judges 3:9-10)

- a. God provides a deliverer; He raises up a \_\_\_\_\_ Othniel, whom we have met before.
- b. For all of this, however, the account of this first judge is very \_\_\_\_\_ and lacking in action and excitement.

### IV. THE RESULTS OF DELIVERANCE (Judges 3:11)

- a. This passage comes to an end when the \_\_\_\_\_ achieved through Othniel turns into rest.
- b. First, the “rest” spoken of here is a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than an achievement.
- c. Second, this “rest” is the enjoyment of something that God had \_\_\_\_\_. (Deuteronomy 3:18-20; 12:9-10; 25:19)
- d. Third, this “rest” is given through a \_\_\_\_\_ God chooses to use, in this case Othniel.
- e. Fourth, this “rest” is \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. Fifth, this “rest” is concrete and \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. Finally, the “rest” of this verse is \_\_\_\_\_, it lasted only until Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

### CONCLUSION:

We have looked at the brief account of Othniel’s career as a judge, the first judge. He is not just the first judge; he is a model judge. He shows what judgeship is at its best and what God can accomplish through it—relief from oppression, salvation, and rest. Judgeship is limited in that the salvation it could provide was only temporary. God has provided us with a Savior, who is a perfect King and Judge, and the bringer of complete, permanent salvation and eternal rest.