

The Broadmoor Bulletin

A Monthly Publication for the Christians at Broadmoor

September 2007

Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar

A Cycle of Sin and Salvation

The book of Judges presents the following pattern of behavior for the Israelites.

- **Sin (2:11-13).** The Israelites were guilty of forsaking the Lord and turning to idolatry. This was in direct violation of the covenant God had made with Israel at Sinai, after He had led them out of Egypt. God had demanded exclusive service from the Israelites.
- **Suffering (2:14-15).** God became angry and allowed other people to oppress the Israelites, causing great pain and distress. Suffering was a direct result of Israel's sin. Not only had Israel sinned by turning to idolatry, they had also failed to drive out the nations from the land of Canaan as God had instructed. The same people that Israel allowed to remain would bring affliction upon them.
- **Supplication (2:18b).** In the midst of their misery, the Israelites would cry out for help to the Lord. When Israel lived in peace, they turned to idols, but when they suffered, they called upon God to deliver them.
- **Salvation (2:16-18a).** God is a kind and compassionate God, and He heard the cries of the Israelites. He had mercy upon an oppressed and afflicted people, sending judges to deliver them from their oppressors.
- **Silence.** After God would deliver the Israelites, there would be a period of peace and rest from oppression. However, when Israel became comfortable, they returned to their sinful ways, and the cycle would start all over again.

The pattern can most easily be seen in the short reign of Othniel: Sin (3:7), Suffering (3:8), Supplication (3:9), Salvation (3:10) and Silence (3:11).

Jeremy Sweets

The Judges of Israel

This bulletin and the next five bulletins will focus on lessons that we can learn from the lives of the judges. The schedule is shown below. I would appreciate any submissions of good articles that you have written or read.

September	Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar (Chaps. 1 – 3)
October	Deborah and Barak (Chaps. 4 – 5)
November	Gideon (Chaps. 6 – 8)
December	Abimelech, Tola, and Jair (Chaps. 9 – 10)
January	Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (11 – 12)
February	Samson (Chaps. 13 – 16) Gilbert Booher

Othniel

In the brief account of Othniel's life that we find recorded in Scripture, we see a couple of qualities that can help us be more effective servants for God. First, we see that Othniel had a volunteer spirit. When the Israelites were ready to fight the inhabitants of Debir or Kiriath-sepher, Othniel was ready to go, and he captured the city (Judges 1:11 – 13). When the Israelites cried out under the oppression of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia, Othniel answered the Lord's call to deliver His people.

We also see this same spirit when Isaiah received his call as a prophet (Isaiah 6). Isaiah responded to the Lord's call by saying, "Here am I. Send me!" We need the same volunteer spirit in our service to God. We are to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices (Romans 12:1). We are to present ourselves to God as those alive from the dead and our members as instruments of righteousness to God (Romans 6:13). We are created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10).

Othniel also had courage like his older brother Caleb. Othniel knew that God would help him face the forces of Debir and Mesopotamia. He had learned from the faith of Caleb, who called Israel to take the land that God had promised them. Caleb knew that with God's help, they could overcome the giants in the land (Numbers 14:6 – 9). When Joshua took the reins of leadership from Moses, God reminded him to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6 – 9). Satan wants to intimidate us and keep us from accomplishing the works that God has prepared for us. He prowls about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). God has promised us that Satan will flee from us if we courageously resist him (James 4:7). Let us be courageous volunteers in God's service as Othniel was.

Gilbert Booher

Ehud

After Ehud had slain Eglon, king of Moab, he called his brethren to fight against Moab. He said to them, "Pursue them, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands (Judges 3:28)." We need to remember that Jesus has secured the victory against our enemy, the Devil. Revelation 17:14 reminds us that the Lamb will overcome His foes because He is Lord of lords and King of kings. If we respond to His gospel call, accept His election of us, and live lives of faithful service to Him, we can share in that victory and enjoy with Him the heavenly Jerusalem, where there will be no tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain.

Gilbert Booher

Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, saying, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you." So Simeon went with him. Judah went up, and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek. They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek and fought against him, and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." So they brought him to Jerusalem and he died there.

Judges 1:1 – 7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7 – 8

After him (Ehud) came Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad; and he also saved Israel.

Judges 3:31

??Did You Know??

1. Othniel, the first judge, was the younger brother of Caleb. (Judges 1:13, 3:9)
2. Othniel captured Kiriath-sepher (Debir), and as a reward Caleb gave Othniel his daughter in marriage. (Judges 1:11 – 13)
3. After Israel had served Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, for 8 years because of their sin, they cried to the Lord for help. The Lord sent Othniel as a deliverer, and he defeated Cushan-rishathaim. For 40 years the Israelites had peace (Judges 3:8 – 11).
4. Ehud, the second judge, was left-handed (Judges 3:15).
5. Israel had served Eglon, king of Moab, for 18 years when God delivered them through Ehud (Judges 3:15)
6. Ehud killed Eglon and then led Israel out to attack Moab. They killed 10,000 Moabite "men of valor" and subdued Moab. After that Israel had peace for 80 years (Judges 3:16 – 30).
7. The third judge, Shamgar, defeated the Philistines by killing 600 men with an oxgoad (Judges 3:31)

Evan Boohar

The hidden title for the puzzle is spelled out by the uncircled letters in the solved puzzle.

Puzzle 17

Hidden Title: _____

Scripture: Judges 2:1-5

EGYPT	BROUGHT	LAND
FATHERS	LEAGUE	INHABITANTS
THROW	DOWN	ALTARS
NOT	OBEYED	THORNS
SIDES	GODS	SNARE

```

A B D I S O B I E
S D R T H O R N S
I D S O W O R H T
E N O R U L T A P
T P Y G E G E B O
D P L A E H H I Y
E Y G L T E T T J
Y U L T R N U A O
E M A A U W O N F
B Z N R O O R T D
O S D S I D E S Y
  
```

©1995 by The Standard Publishing Company. Permission is granted to reproduce this page for ministry purposes only—not for resale.

Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.'" When the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. So they named that place Bochim; and there they sacrificed to the LORD.

Judges 2:1 – 5