



Othniel, the Lion of God

Caleb's Nephew

Othniel, the Lion of God

- Joshua 24:15-31
- Judges 2:10 - 3:11
- Israel during the time of the judges can be summed up in:
 - Judges 17:6 - “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
 - Judges 21:25 - “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

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- **God told them what to do in the Promised Land - Deut. 7:1-6.**
 - Possess the land,
 - Utterly destroy all the nations of Canaan,
 - Make no peace treaties with them,
 - Show them no mercy; they were idolaters who burned their children alive in sacrifice,
 - Refuse to intermarry with them,
 - Completely destroy all traces of their pagan religions.

Othniel, the Lion of God

- Israel failed to fully carry out the Lord's command.
 - Judah - Judges 1:19-20
 - Benjamin - 1:21
 - Joseph - 1:22-26
 - Manasseh - 1:27-28
 - Ephraim - 1:29
 - Zebulun - 1:30
 - Asher - 1:31-32
 - Naphtali - 1:33
 - Dan - 1:34
 - The tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh refused to enter Canaan, choosing to remain on the other side of Jordan.

Othniel, the Lion of God

- The man who lived up to his name.
- Judges 3:1-11

Israel's Compromise

- **Interaction with the Canaanites.**
- **Intermarriage with the Canaanites.**
- **Idolatry with the Canaanites.**
- **Indifference with the Canaanites.**

Israel's Compromise

- **Interaction with the Canaanites.**
 - God expected them to remain separate.
 - Deut. 7:6-8, 11 - "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 11 Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them."

Israel's Compromise

- **Application for Christians.**
 - **2Cor. 6:17 - “Therefore Come out from among them And be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’”**
 - **Titus 2:14 - “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”**
 - **1Cor. 6:20 - “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”**

Israel's Compromise

- **Intermarriage with the Canaanites.**
 - The company you keep will determine how closely you walk with the Lord.
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

Israel's Compromise

- **We must interact with the world so that we can be a light to them.**
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- **But we must keep our spiritual distance. It is but a short step from walking with the world to living like the world.**

Israel's Compromise

- **Idolatry with the Canaanites.**
- **Indifference with the Canaanites.**

Israel's Chastisement

- **The focus of God's wrath.**
 - **Rev. 3:19 - "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."**
 - **1Cor. 11:32 - "But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."**

Israel's Chastisement

- The fierceness of God's wrath.
 - Chushan-rishathaim means “Doubly Wicked Cushan” (literally translated “doubly wicked and black with darkness”).
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
 - “God never allows His people to sin successfully!” (*Spurgeon*)

Israel's Chastisement

- **The fullness of God's wrath.**
 - God sold them into slavery and left them there for eight years.
 - “Sin will take you farther than you want to go; keep you longer than you want to stay; and cost you more than you want to pay.”

Israel's Champion

- **Othniel's credentials**
 - Caleb's nephew
 - He is the son of Kenaz.
 - He was a man of courage and bravery.
 - Judges 1:12-13 - "Then Caleb said, 'Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife. 13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife.'"

Israel's Champion

- He was an older man; some believe around the age of 75.
- He was battle tested. He was available, and God chose him.
- “The greatest ability is often availability.”
(Bill Parcells)

Israel's Champion

- **Othniel's companion - The Spirit of God**
 - **Rom. 8:9-14 - "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."**

Israel's Champion

- **Othniel's conquest**
 - **2Cor. 8:3-5 - "For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God."**

Othniel, the Lion of God

- Othniel, Caleb's nephew, 75 years old, led Israel in war against the doubly wicked king of a nation that would eventually become the Babylonian Empire, and won; and then, returned Israel to worship God in peace for 40 years.
- Can we, who enjoy the blessings in Christ and the fullness of God's will, do any less?