

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 4

Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar Judge Israel Judg. 3

Introduction

Starting in 3:6, the book begins the sad cycle of Israel's sin, God's righteous judgment, and Israel's salvation based on her repentance. Because of Israel's refusal to drive out the Canaanites as she had been instructed, she was forced to live with those who were her enemies. Toleration with pagan ways eventually would bring her down...another indication that God's wisdom is higher.

With the rising up of each "deliverer," God is shown to be able to use whomever and whatever is at His disposal to accomplish His purpose.

- 1) How do vv. 1-6 conclude the "2nd Introduction" found in the previous chapter? (2:6-23)

- 2) What is recorded in v. 7? As a result, to whose oppressive rule did God subject Israel, and for how long? (v. 8)

- 3) What did Israel eventually do? (v. 9a) What was God's response? (v. 9b) Who was the first "judge?" What was his connection to the previous period of Joshua's leadership?

- 4) What was the result of Othniel's deliverance of Israel? (vv. 10-11)

- 5) What is recorded re: Israel's sad cycle of unfaithfulness? (v. 12a) Who did God use this time to punish Israel and with what results? (vv. 12b, 14) What did Eglon do? (v. 13) Research: be able to identify these peoples historically.

