

Judges Session 3

Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar

There is a sequence of phrases that gets repeated several times in Judges: “The people did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” then “The people cried out to the Lord...” We’ll see that pattern established plainly today. In the first episode, raiders from Mesopotamia are able to sweep down the coastal plain as far south as Judah. The second account is about Moabites from the east who cross the Jordan and lay claim to the area around Jericho. And then there’s trouble to the west from Philistines along the coast.

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| A. The Career of Othniel (“Israel did evil” – v 7) | 3:7-11 |
| 1. Cushan Rishathayim from Aram Naharaim. Double trouble from two rivers! Modern day Syria | |
| 2. Caleb’s nephew Prevailed against Cushan of Mesopotamia | 3:10 |
| 3. Peaceful rule for forty years | 3:11 |

Question: why do we need to be told “the Spirit of the Lord was upon him” in verse 10?

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| B. The Career of Ehud (“Israel did evil” – v12) | 3:12-30 |
| 1. Israel under Eglon of Moab for eighteen years | 3:12-14 |
| 2. Ehud assassinates Eglon | 3:15-25 |
| 3. Israel prevails against Moab | 3:26-29 |
| 4. Peaceful rule for eighty years | 3:30 |

Question: in what way did Ehud’s being left-handed feature in these events?

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| C. The Career of Shamgar | 3:31 |
| 1. After Ehud | 3:31a |
| 2. Prevailed against the Philistines | 3:31b |

Question: what might be the significance of using an oxgoad for a weapon?