

Seeing Jesus through the Judges
Judges 3:7-31

1. Brief Review

- Why Judges?
- How to approach it
- Context

2. Othniel → Judges 3: 7 – 11

The Cycle: Sin → Servitude → Supplication → Salvation

a. Their sin and God's Response – v. 7-8

- "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments" ([Exod. 20:4-6](#)).*
- "For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" ([Exod. 34:14](#)).*
- "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" ([Deut. 4:24](#)).*
- "You shall not go after other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are around you – for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God – lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth" ([Deut. 6:14-15](#)).*

a. He RESPONDED EXACTLY as he said he would.

b. God's jealousy has no sin within it, so it is not insecure, it is not envious, it is not anxious, it is not afraid, it holds no bitterness, & it is not suspicious.

c. Dale Ralph Davis --- "Yet even here, in Yahweh's anger, is hope for Israel, for his anger shows that he will not allow Israel to serve Baal unmolested. Yahweh's wrath is the heat of his jealous love by which he refuses to let go of his people; he refuses to allow people to remain comfortable in sin. Serving Cushan-R may not sound like salvation to us – and it isn't, but, if it forces us to lose our grip on Baal, it may be the beginning of salvation.... God does not let his people get cozy in their infidelity. Steadfast love pursues them in their iniquity and it is not above inflicting misery in order to awaken them. The burning anger of Yahweh is certainly no picnic, but it may be the only sign of hope for God's people, even though they may be yet unaware of that fact.

b. And they “cried out” v. 9 -- za ‘aq: it is a cry of distress. Like calling 911. Desperate for help.

c. And he heard them, and raised up a deliverer for them WHY?

i. *Deuteronomy 7:6-9* “For ^ayou are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be ^aa people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. **7** It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but ^ait is because the LORD loves you and is keeping ^tthe covenant that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, ^tthe faithful God ^twho keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

ii. Because HE made a covenant--- a binding agreement --- to their fathers – to give them LAND, to be a GOD to them and their children after them and MOST IMPORTANTLY to bring about the promised “offspring” one day to crush the serpent. **And HE KEEPS COVENANT.**

a. One more covenant review:

i. 1st promise in Gen 3 --- this offspring

ii. Noah – Covenant of Preservation: He will preserve this offspring

iii. Abraham - Covenant of Promise: He assured he will provide the offspring & the promised land.

iv. Moses - Covenant of Precepts--- He gives them the conditions of the Covenant concerning the land – concerning THE NATION of ISRAEL --- When you obey, I will give you rest & when you forsake me, I will destroy you.... 2. *Timothy 2:13* – *if we are faithless, he remains faithful* (he is faithful to what he told them he would do!

He uses both consequence and mercy to bring his people to repentance.

d. Othniel provides deliverance v. 10 – 11 He is a warrior, see Joshua 15, from a good family... yet it was the spirit of God that empowered Him! Psalm 127:1 – unless God does it.... We will labor in vain.

i. The land had rest for 40 years.

ii. The peace is was real that was provided through Othniel. But it did not last. See v. 11 – He died. Othniel is a type of Christ --- a pointer to Christ. Only Jesus who is risen and LIVING STILL can provide HIS POSESSION the lasting rest and salvation we long for. Only Jesus!

3. EHUD → Judges 3: 12-29 The left Handed Savior

- a. V. 12 -14 The Cycle... This time it is the King of Moab- Eglon - that the Lord “strengthened” and used. 18 years he oppressed the Israelites. They are miserable and desperate for rescue.
- b. V. 15 Enter “Ehud” the unexpected judge --- a “left- handed man” more accurately means “with his right hand restricted” ... He was crippled. Appeared weak. Dismissed by society – especially back then. Rejected by men... who does this remind you of?
- c. V. 16-29 The Story.... look at how uniquely God delivers them
- d. The takeaways and tragic truth:
 - i. God gets INTO the mess with us.... He SEES us where we are and uniquely delivers us.
 - ii. The tragedy is that though Ehud delivered and this time brought peace for 80 years, Ehud again is not an adequate Savior. “For though he brought a certain kind of salvation, nothing he did could change their hearts. He exerted some beneficial influence on them while he lived, but he could not release them from the bondage sin held them under and he could not rip out the idols of their hearts.” DRD. And so again, they did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. The TRUE bondage was not over.

a. Romans 3:9 says Jews and Gentiles alike are ALL UNDER SIN.

b. Romans 6:17 & 20 speak of how we were slaves to sin... and Romans 7 shows that even though we have been set free from the penalty of sin, we still war against the power of sin within us.

c. Joni E Tada---read from page 40 in her book on Heaven

4. Shamgar → Judges 3: 31 - the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines, with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

- a. The takeaway: IT is God and ONLY GOD who delivers. He is using these “judges” ... but they aren’t the Hero..... HE IS. And only Him. He can use a strong guy, a crippled guy, a non believing guy.... A WOMAN.... It’s not about the guy, that’s the point... It is about HIM... HE saves. And uses whoever he wants to do it.

Questions to Discuss:

1. How have you seen God use both consequences and mercy in bringing you or others to repentance?
2. Do you feel like God's blessing needs to be earned or deserved (by your faith or your repentance)? What actually brings about God's intervention and deliverance?
3. We live in the "already but not yet" situation with our sin. We are no longer slaves to sin (already free) and yet still at war with it (not fully free).... What can we learn from the Israelites and Judges about how to fight our sin?
4. Do you spend time meditating on Heaven and the full freedom we will finally have when we get there? Do so, and let it strengthen you to endure until you are safely home.
5. Any unique stories of deliverance, even funny ones of how God has intervened very specifically in your life?
6. Who can we often look to to be the heroes of our stories and our dire situations?