

UNLIKELY HEROES

Judges Part 2: How God Used Othniel

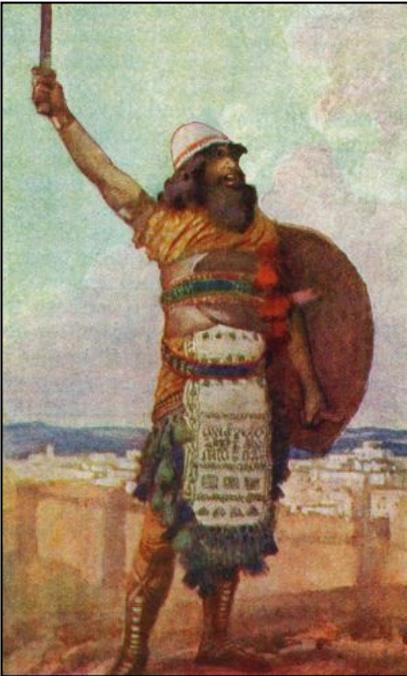
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WARM-UP QUESTION

Has God ever done something through you where his power was evident? If so, describe it below:

OTHNIEL (Judges 3:1-11)



These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan ² (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): ³ the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. ⁴ They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses. ⁵ The Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁶ They took their daughters in marriage and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods. ⁷ The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs. ⁸ The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. ⁹ But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. ¹¹ So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER STUDY

1. Why did God allow some of the Canaanites to stay in the land? (3:1-4)
2. What three things did Israel do in 3:5-7?
3. How did God respond to these three things? (3:8; cf. Deut. 28:15, 25))

4. What did Israel finally do? (3:9a)

5. How did God respond when the Israelites cried out to God? (3:9b-10)

6. What was the result of God's intervention? (3:10b-11; cf. Deut. 28:1, 7)

7. What key points does the author make in this passage?

BRIDGING THE GAP

- ✓ We are to remember that God always responds to a _____ (1 John 1:9).
- ✓ We are to remind ourselves that it is _____ a call, not you (1 Thess. 5:24).
- ✓ We are to rest in the fact that it is God who _____ you through the _____ to achieve his purposes (Eph. 3:16).