

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"

Judges 2: 10-11 "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:"



Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 1-Adult Bible Study  
In His Vineyard Together Ministries©2012

## The Judges-part1

### Judges Chapter 1-3:11

The Judges is a Trail of Tears as well as a Trail of Champions.

God gave the Israelites specific commandments for daily living, then He gave them specific instructions to take the Promised Land completely and drive out the current idol worshipping inhabitants; **but they didn't do it.** They decided that obeying God completely was too hard. They justified what they did and justified their disobedience. This is not too different from our nation today, is it?

When the next generation takes the leadership, look at what happens: "**the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.**" Throughout Judges we see where the people fail to train the next generation and they turn their backs on God. If all I had was the book of Judges, I would still see the importance of the Children's Ministry. Ministering to the next generation is vital.

### **Othniel, First Judge of Israel**

In [Judges 2:18](#) God shows his mercy by raising up judges. As God raises up judges in the land I think He would be sure to pick the first one with great care.

What does God want us to see in the life and ministry of Othniel, the first judge?

### **Othniel's Ancestry:**

Othniel was the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz. ([Judges 3:9](#)) In other words, he was Caleb's nephew. In review, Caleb was one of the 12 spies that Moses sent to survey Caanan. Caleb and Joshua came back with a positive report but the other 10 had a bad report. God preserved Joshua and Caleb during the 40 years that followed in the wilderness while everyone else their age died off. When they crossed Jordan into the Promised Land, Caleb is still holding to God's promises. ([Joshua 14:6-9 & 12](#))

*If you had an uncle like Caleb, it would have an effect on you.* Caleb's absolute belief in God's promises and the testimony of his lifestyle made a big impression on Othniel. He may have heard his uncle tell of the great

miracles but for sure he watched an 80 year old uncle fight **giants and conquer the land he had spied out 40 years earlier!** By Faith, Caleb believed God.

Having an encouraging family that provided positive leadership shows up in Othniel's life at a young age.

We need to take the time and effort needed to encourage the younger generation. Look at what Othniel did in [Joshua 15:17](#) "And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it."

Because of faith, Othniel had the victory.

### **Othniel's Action:**

The leadership in Caleb's family produced future leaders. Caleb trusted God and wholly followed the Lord. That is no guarantee that all of your kids will turn out right, but it sure doesn't hurt!

Othniel saw Godliness rewarded. He saw a man with a good testimony. He knew that his uncle was friends with Joshua. Othniel saw miracles in his uncle's life and in the lives of his uncle's friends.

Othniel had to choose for himself how he would live, but based on the way he was raised, he was greatly influenced to choose to follow God and His promises.

He chose right; in the process, he was a blessing to a whole generation. Your service for the Lord or lack thereof, has a bearing on others as well.

*Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

### ***Trail Tips:***

*Partial obedience is not  
Obedience.*

.....

*Today's Faith is impacting  
the Next Generation*