

Judges: Othniel and Ehud 3:7-30

YouTube channel: [Chris Nazarian](#)

For the previous session follow this link to YouTube: [Judges: Prologue](#)

## Othniel: prototype judge

- 3:7-11
  - Recapitulation of the downward spiral
  - Downward spiral applied to a specific context (Othniel)
  
- Othniel gets it right (not flawed)
  - He has the right pedigree
  - He follows Yahweh's commands
  - He is a good example
  
- The Othniel story serves as a prototype for comparison with the other judges
  - Deviations from this prototype become important for interpretation

# Foreign god worship

## Baal (canaanite god)

- Description
  - Owned and controlled the land
  - Responsible for fruitfulness of the land and fertility
    - Crops, cattle, fruit trees
  - Worked through appeasement and manipulation
- Worship rituals
  - Incense, sacrifices, fertility rights (Asherah)
    - Prostitution and human sacrifice
- Israel moved from being nomadic to agrarian

## Ehud: the cripple who delivers

- Ehud the Benjaminite “son of the right hand”
  - Can Ehud deliver?
- Eglon “calf”
  - A very fat man who is clueless

- Brutality, treachery, and cunning
  - Hidden sword
  - Dabar - means “word” or “thing”
  - Assassination
- Idol worship (pesilim)
  - Ehud turns back at the sculptured stones 3:19
- Unity
  - Ehud rallies Israel to fight against Moab and subdues them 3:27-28

## Practical Application

- Disability doesn't disqualify you
  - God will use you in your weakness to show His strength
  - It is God who is at work in you to bring about His will
- Foreign kings are useless, so why do you want one?
  - 2020 election, were you disappointed? Why? What was your hope set in?
  - Foreign kings rise and fall at the hand of God, so why do you want one?

- Do you trust God?
- We can't help but seek concrete security in things we can control

## What we learned

- Deviations from the prototype become important for interpretation
  - Think, "how does this judge compare to Othniel?"
- Worship of foreign gods is highly seductive
  - Baal fertility worship
- Foreign kings are incapable compared to Yahweh
  - We can't help but seek concrete security in things we can control

# Next Time...

The character stories continue: Deborah

Read:

- Deborah's story 4:1-5:31

Think about:

- What are the general characteristics of a judge?
- In the Deborah story, who fits those characteristics?

