



# Conquering Canaan

Lesson 7: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, And Deborah

**(Judges 3:7-5:31)**

Just as God had said would happen, when the Israelites made agreements with the people who remained in Canaan, they began worshiping their false gods rather than the true God and did what was evil. Because of this evil, God would punish them. He would allow other nations to capture the Israelites. However, when Israel would turn away from their evil and cry out to God for help, He would send a judge to deliver them.

So, when Israel did what was evil, He was very angry with them. He sold them to the king of Mesopotamia. The Israelites served this king for nine years. Then, the Israelites cried out to God. When they did, God raised up a man named Othniel (who was Caleb's youngest brother).

God was with him while he judged Israel. He went into battle and God handed the king of Mesopotamia over to him so that the king could not win. Then, there was peace in the land for 40 years and Othniel died.

But, the Israelites did evil again. God saw their evil and gave King Eglon of Moab power over the Israelites because of what they had done. After Eglon convinced the Ammonites and the Amalekites to join him in fighting Israel, they attacked Israel and defeated them, taking the city of Palms. The Israelites served King Eglon for 18 years.

Then, the Israelites cried out to God and God raised up a man named Ehud to judge them (who was a left-handed man from the tribe of Benjamin). He was sent to deliver the tribute as payment to King Eglon and made himself a double-edged sword about 18 inches long. He strapped it to his right thigh under his clothes. When he saw the king and gave the tribute, he said that he had a secret message for the king.

When everyone left the room, Ehud said he had a message from God and stabbed the king in his belly (even the handle went into the king's belly) and he died. The king was so fat that his belly covered the sword. Then, Ehud led the Israelites to defeat the Moabites and the land had peace for 80 years.

Next, Shamgar judged Israel. Like the others, he delivered Israel from their enemies. He defeated 600 Philistines with a cattle prod.

But, Israel did what was evil again. The Lord sold them to King Jabin of Canaan. The commander of his army was Sisera. The Israelites cried out to God for help because Jabin had 900 iron chariots and was very mean to them for 20 years.

Deborah was a prophetess who spoke words from God and a judge at that time. She called for Barak and reminded him of God's words. He was to take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor. God would lure Sisera and his army to fight against the Israelites and make Israel win the battle. So, Deborah and Barak both went, with the 10,000 men.

When they did, Sisera found out about it and went to fight against them. Deborah told Barak to go, because this was the day God had given Sisera to him! God threw all Sisera's charioteers and army into a panic. Sisera left his chariot and ran on foot. Barak chased the army and they defeated all of Sisera's army.

Meanwhile, Sisera had ran to Heber's tent (a Kenite), since there was peace between King Jabin and Heber. Heber's wife, Jael was there and welcomed Sisera in – and put a blanket over him to hide him. She gave him milk to drink. But, while he was sleeping, she killed him by hammering a tent peg into his head. When Barak came, Jael showed Sisera to him. So, God defeated King Jabin of the Canaanites and Deborah and Barak sang a song about what God had done for the Israelites through them!



## Memory Verse:

“The Israelites did what was evil in the Lord’s sight; they forgot the Lord their God and worshiped the Baals and the Asherahs” (Judges 3:7).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: