

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue  
**JUDGES**

**Six Cycles of Judges 3:7-16:31**

1. Othniel Cycle (3:7-11)
2. Ehud Cycle (3:12-30)
3. Barak Cycle (4:1-5:31)
4. Gideon Cycle (6:1-10:5)
5. Jephthah Cycle (10:6-12:15)
6. Samson Cycle (13:1-16:31)

Judges 3:7-11

**A Paradigm of Deliverance**

<sup>7</sup>The sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

<sup>8</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, so that He sold them into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the sons of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.

<sup>9</sup>When the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel to deliver them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

<sup>10</sup>The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. <sup>11</sup>Then the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

(Judges 3:7-11)

**Paradigm of Deliverance**

1. The Anger of Yahweh

- the inevitable reaction of His holy love toward His people's betrayal ("jealousy")
- His judgments are an expression of His disciplining love for the good of His people

**Paradigm of Deliverance**

2. The Sovereignty of Yahweh

- He uses evil instruments for His just and good purposes...
- yet, so as, God is not the author of evil nor is the responsibility of man removed

## Paradigm of Deliverance

### 3. The Salvation of Yahweh

#### a) His mercy

- God's mercy is not a reaction to the people's repentance but to their misery
- God is at the same time provoked to anger and moved with compassion

## Paradigm of Deliverance

### 3. The Salvation of Yahweh

#### b) His means

- He raised up Spirit-empowered deliverers to deliver His people from oppression
- the emphasis is on the Lord's work

## Paradigm of Deliverance

### 3. The Salvation of Yahweh

#### c) the outcome

- *"the land had rest"* – an outward picture of the rest that God promises to His people
- it was only temporary – the cycle begins once again

## Paradigm of Deliverance

### Fulfillment in Jesus

- the apparent tension between God's just wrath and His compassion is resolved in Christ at the cross

<sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10