

# UNKNOWN BUT NOT UNUSED: Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar

*Sermon Notes September 6, 2009*

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Judges 3:1-3:33

Did you ever watch the show “Family Feud?” They ask for the most popular answers to a survey in a certain category. If the book of Judges were ever used, I imagine Samson would be the most popular and first answer, then maybe Deborah, Gideon, and then Jephthah. The folks that I want to speak about today probably wouldn’t even make the survey. Their names are Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. They are unknown, but each teaches us something about possessing the promises of God.

In the Book of Judges, people get worse and worse and so do the judges. The book ends with Sampson and though he delivered God’s people, he was hardly an example of morality. When the leadership is closer to God then the people are closer to God.

The three judges I am speaking of today are more ideal judges than the later ones.

Othniel’s story takes all of five verses to tell in short it is like this Israel forgot The Lord – got sold into slavery – cried out to God- God raised up Othniel in Judges 3, and in verse 11, it says: *“And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.”* He was nobody special, maybe boring a little, and God used him mightily!

Ehud’s story is much more interesting in Judges 3:12-30. There are two views in His story, some are critical that he used deceit- as a sign of moral decay of the judges. Others think that he was trying to make a name for himself. Others see him as a creative warrior for God, using practical strategy to accomplish God’s work. Why don’t you read the scripture and judge for yourself? Not a lot of note worthy accomplishment, look at Judges 3:30 *“so Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.”*

Now look at Shamgar- The poor guy only has one verse! He did not even have a sword! Look at Judges 3:31 *“And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.”* This is the guy this is the one I want to talk about.

Sunday Sept. 6, 2009, I will share some interesting things with you about this unknown mighty man of God Please be here!