

## FIRST CYCLE of REBELLION: OTHNIEL JUDGES 3:7-11

Judges 2:13 – *“They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.”*

Baal = “Lord, master, husband”

The principal deity worshipped in the ancient pagan world. The name was adopted and subdivided among various nations and given additional names like: Baal-Shamen, Baal-Berith, Baal-Gad, Baal-Zebub, Baal-Hermon, Baal-Shalisha, etc. From Baal came a group of subordinate gods such as: Moloch, Malkam, Melqart and Chemosh are a few that we read of in the Bible.

Ashtaroth is the plural of Ashtoreth and is thought to come from the Assyrian goddess Asshur or Ishtar; also worshipped by the Sidonians, Phoenicians and Syrians. A variant spelling of Asheroth is the plural of Asherah; though there is some debate among Hebrew scholars whether they are the same deity.

King of Mesopotamia (or Aram-Naharaim): Cushan-rishathaim

**Cushan** (Cushite?). **rishatha** (=wicked, evil) **im** (doubled)  
Oppressed Israel for 8 years...

Question: What do you think was going on in the mind of the Israelites during this time of oppression?

**OTHNIEL** –

Nephew and later Son-in-law of Caleb (1:12,13).

Question: What, if any, considerations should be made of Othniel being the “Son of Kenaz?”

Had peace for 40 years...until Othniel died and the people did evil once again.