

## Episode #518 Judges 3 Part 1 – Ehud the Second Judge

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

III. The second judge: Ehud.

- A. Judges 3:12. Israel do the same evil again before Jehovah, so He raises up Eglon (Calf-Like) King of Moab (From a Father, Lot's oldest daughter's son's name and nation).
- B. Judges 3:13. He allies with Ammon (Tribal, the nation of Lot's youngest daughter) and Amalek, the wicked Canaanite tribe, and defeated Israel. City of palm trees = Jericho (Deuteronomy 34:3).
- C. Judges 3:14. This is an eighteen year servitude. Added to the eight years in verse 8 there are now 26 years of servitude.
- C. Judges 3:15. Ehud (United) son of Gera (A Grain) a Benjamite is chosen as the next Judge. Left handed is, of course, unusual. The idea here, though, seems to be that he was injured in his right hand, so that he had no choice. (Hebrew = impeded in his right hand)
- D. Judges 3:16-29. Ehud's victory.
  1. Judges 3:16. Ehud, a lefty, carries a dagger (or short sword, a cubit is about 18 inches) concealed in his clothes on his right thigh. A right-handed person would naturally draw from the left side, the usual place for a weapon. They might well have checked his left side, but not expected the right.
  2. Judges 3:17. Ehud is sent with Israel's tribute money to Eglon. Eglon is a very fat man. Unusual in that time. Due to wealth.
  3. Judges 3:18. He sends away his fellow Israelites/servants who had carried the tribute for him.
  4. Judges 3:19. Ehud turns from the quarries (graven images) that were by Gilgal and comes back to the king. He claims to have a secret message to give the king. The king hushes him until he can have a secret meeting with him.
  5. Judges 3:20. Ehud meets him in a cooling room (for the summer heat) that was his own private chamber. He says the message is from God. Eglon gets out of his chair. Why? Was he angry to hear who it was from?
  6. Judges 3:21. Ehud unexpectedly shows proficiency with his left hand. He pulls the short sword from his right side and thrusts it into Eglon's belly.
  7. Judges 3:22. He thrusts it so hard that the hilt goes in as well as the blade! His intestines (or their contents?) comes out. The message is the death of the king. This seems violent, but remember that this man was oppressing God's people.
  8. Judges 3:23. Ehud leaves through the porch, locking the doors of the roof-chamber behind him. Did he climb down the wall? Or did he boldly walk out the front door?
  9. Judges 3:24. After he leaves, the slaves come. Finding the door locked, they assume Eglon must be relieving himself (what "covers his feet" means).
  10. Judges 3:25. They wait embarrassingly long, then finally fetch a key and open the doors. They find their master dead on the ground!

11. Judges 3:26. Ehud's escape made good. He passes the graven images, escapes to Seirath (shaggy).
12. Judges 3:27. Ehud blows a trumpet to call together Israel to Mount Ephraim (where Seirath was). The sons of Israel join him when he comes down.
13. Judges 3:28. He tells them the LORD has delivered the Moabites to their power. They follow him. He holds the fords of Jordan and does not allow the occupying army to cross back to their side of the river (the east side).
14. Judges 3:29. He slays ten thousand strong and stout men. None escape.

E. Judges 3:30. Moab is subdued and then Ehud judges Israel in peace. The eighty years probably includes the next judge (forty apiece?).

IV. The third judge: Shamgar (Sword) son of Anath (Answer). Judges 3:31. He delivered Israel from the Philistines (to the southwest). Remember: one of the nations left in the land. Note his feat. A large stick, could be up to six inches around. Had a sharp end to poke the ox on one side, and a shovel on the other. Why this weapon? Judges 5:8: Israel's oppressors forbid them from having weapons. Was this done at one time? Amazing! Or a total count? His feat was similar to Samson and some of David's mighty men.

V. The second judge in the book of Judges was Ehud, a man with a crippled right hand who saved Israel from Eglon King of Moab. The third judge was Shamgar, who won victory with a lowly ox goad. A person and a weapon most would overlook. God saves by many lowly things!