

EHUD:
***The left-handed
judge***

Judges 3:12-30



ISSUES IN THIS PASSAGE

- Graphic detail: *the Bible describes the reality of life*
- Killing: *the Bible distinguishes between “murder” & “killing”*
- Consequences: *the consequences of disobedience are always severe*

JUDGES RECAP

- ❖ Period: about 1400 – 1050 BC
- ❖ Key words/phrases: “again did evil...” & “the LORD...”
- ❖ Main message: God’s faithfulness – grace & redemption
- ❖ Observation: reveals what people are like when left to their own doings

THE CYCLE

1. Sin: *“again the Israelites did evil”* (12)
2. Oppression: *“LORD gave Eglon... power”* (12)
3. Repentance: *“again the Israelites cried out”* (15)
4. Deliverance: *“He gave them a deliverer – Ehud”* (15)
5. Peace: *“land had peace for eighty years”* (30)



TWO KEY PEOPLE

a. King Eglon

b. Judge Ehud



KING EGLON

- Pagan king used by God to punish Israel
- Formed an alliance to fight Israel
- Conquered City of Palms (Jericho) an oasis
- His weight (17) suggests he live the “party life”
- Ruled Israel for 18 years (14)

EHUD

- ❑ Another “unknown” person
- ❑ Name means “united or strong”
- ❑ Left-handed: naturally or forced?
- ❑ A Benjamite: Benjamin means “*son of the right hand*”
- ❑ Chosen by God (V15 – the Lord gave them...)
- ❑ Character – available, astute, obedient & courageous

EVENTS UNFOLD

- ❑ Israelites owed an annual tax
- ❑ Ehud leads delegation but has a hidden sword (*45 cms*)
- ❑ Presents the tax and leaves, only to return
- ❑ His left-handedness enables him to smuggle in a sword
- ❑ Delivers a secret message from God to King Eglon
- ❑ Assassinate & escapes
- ❑ Takes up leadership role (Follow me, for the Lord... [28])
- ❑ Peace for eighty years

LESSONS FROM EHUD

1. Always be available and courageous in obedience
2. God uses us whether we are left/right/ambidextrous/limited ability
3. Raise your experience to the level of God's Word rather than reduce His Word to the level of your experience
4. Lead others to follow God – keep our eyes on the Lord
5. Go the long distance
6. Stand firm against those who oppose God
7. God's judgement is severe
8. God always wins (*God +1 is always the right way*)

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

When the road is rough and steep

Fix your eyes upon Jesus

He alone has power to keep

Fix your eyes upon Him

Jesus is a gracious Friend

One on whom you can depend

He is faithful to the end

Fix your eyes upon Him

(Norman John Clayton 1903-92)