

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 *"And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"*

Judges 2: 10-11 *"And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:"*

Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 2-Adult Bible Study  
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## The Judges-part2

### Judges Chapter 3:12-3:31

*"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord:"*

Over and over you will see the above phrase in Judges. When times were good, Israel would drift away from God as if they no longer needed or wanted Him; but when troubles would come, they knew who could deliver them. At some point in time many of the children of Israel would even get desperate enough to put their false idols away to get answers to their prayers!!! It has always been a mystery to me why people will latch on to an idol or materialism or an addiction to something that takes their mind off of the one "TRUE" God, Jehovah.

We have banned God from our nation's capital where important decisions about our future and the future of the world are made. And we have banned God from our schools and universities that educate our young. **How far are we from being like Israel: "evil in the sight of the Lord"?**

#### Think about our nation's gods:

- *Money*
- *Intellect*
- *Evolution*
- *Sports*
- *Pleasure*

### Ehud, Second Judge of Israel

God strengthened Eglon, king of Moab and he gathered help from Ammon and Amalek. These were the enemies of His Chosen People; yet God chose to use them to turn His people back to Himself. Let's see who these people are and why they wanted to invade Israel.

- Moabites were descendants of Lot. They lived just east of the Dead Sea near the South end. They worshipped a god called Chemosh and had human sacrifices.
- Ammonites were also descendants of Lot. Their lands were just to the North of Moab. They had a god called Moloch that they worshipped by burning little children as sacrifices.
- Amalekites were descendents of Esau. They wandered mainly around the lower West region of the Dead Sea and down into the Sinai Peninsula. They had over 400 years to build their grudge against the descendents of Jacob (Israel).

All of these people were related to the children of Israel yet they hated the people of Israel. The key to remember is that it was the Lord that moved them against Israel and gave them the power to defeat Israel. God designed and controlled the oppressions **to keep turning His people back to Himself.** *Read Judges 3: 15-22*

Eglon of Moab defeats the Israelites and sets up rule for 18 years. Eventually they cry to God and He sends them a deliverer.

**God is not looking for a pedigree** when he chooses Ehud. Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, was from the smallest tribe from the youngest son of Jacob. For some reason God records that Ehud is left handed. I don't know why this is important but nothing is put in the Bible by accident.

God is willing to use talents, gifts, and characteristics that we are born with or have developed. Ehud may have been teased about being left-handed but God might have used this trait to catch the King off guard. Don't be too quick to criticize some of your own characteristics. You may have something that you consider a disability but that is just the thing God is looking to use so you can glorify God.

Ehud's Memorable Day is worth the read: *Judges 3:15-30*

*But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.*

*But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man. And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present.*

*But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him. And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat.*

*And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.*

*Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them. When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber. And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened them: and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.*

*And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath.*

*And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them. And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over. And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.*

***Trail Tips:***

*God is not looking at your pedigree; He's looking at His. Do you have His?*

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*A characteristic that you call a "flaw" may be your greatest asset.*