

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

**Introduction**

We saw last week the beginning of a **CYCLE** of **FAILURES** from **ISRAEL** that follow a predictable pattern during the time period covered in the book of **JUDGES**. That **CYCLE** would begin with **SIN**...which would bring about **SUFFERING & SERVITUDE**...which caused them to cry out to the **LORD** in **SUPPLICATION**...which caused the **LORD** to raise them up a **JUDGE** to bring about their **SALVATION** from their enemy...which was followed by a period of **SILENCE** or rest until the next **CYCLE** began!

During the period of **SILENCE**, **ISRAEL** would **FAITHFULLY SERVE** the **LORD** while they followed the strong leadership of their **JUDGES**. But when a **JUDGE** died the **CYCLE** would begin all over again as they **FORSOOK** the **LORD** and **HIS LAW** again!

That is exactly the pattern we see at work in the verses before us today. **ISRAEL** had enjoyed a 40-year period of **REST** or **SILENCE** because the **LORD** raised up **OTHNIEL**, the younger brother of **CALEB** as a **JUDGE** to deliver them from the king of **MESOPOTAMIA** who had enslaved and oppressed them! But **OTHNIEL** died according to *verse 11* and round 2 of the **CYCLE** picks up in *verse 12* which is where we begin tonight.

Before we begin, let me remind you that these stories we're looking at have much to teach us, if we will learn from them! Sadly, many **BELIEVERS** follow a similar pattern of **disobedience, chastisement, restoration and rest**. Our problem is much like **ISRAEL'S** as their **FLESHLY DESIRES** turned them from the **LORD**!

**I. WE SEE ISRAEL'S SIN! Vs. 12a**

**II. WE SEE ISRAEL'S SUFFERING AND SERVITUDE! Vs. 12-14**

These verses describe the horrible **OPPRESSION** that **ISRAEL** **SUFFERED** because of her **REBELLION** against the **LORD**!

**A. Notice ISRAEL'S Foes!**

Israel faced three nations because of her rebellion against the **LORD**—**MOABITES, AMMONITES and AMALEKITES**.

All three of these nations were continual problems for **ISRAEL**, and all three were connected to **ISRAEL** by blood.

The **AMALEKITES** were descended from **ESAU, JACOB'S** twin brother. The **MOABITES** and the **AMMONITES** were descendants of **LOT, ABRAHAM'S** nephew. After **LOT** and his daughters were delivered from **SODOM** and **GOMORRAH, LOT'S** daughters got him drunk, had incestuous relations with their father and conceived **MOAB** and **AMMON**, from whom descended these two nations.

All three of these nations worshipped false gods. The **MOABITES** served a god called **CHEMOSH**. The **AMMONITES** worshiped a god called **MOLOCH (a/k/a MOLECH)**. Both of these gods were worshipped through vile, immoral practices as well as child sacrifice.

The **AMALEKITES** were a nomadic, warlike people that worshipped a variety of pagan gods.

These three nations were a continual thorn in the side of **ISRAEL**. **They were constantly ATTACKING, HINDERING and SEEKING TO ENSLAVE ISRAEL!**

Some theologians have pointed out that these three nations picture of our old, fleshly natures. **MOAB** pictures the **POWER OF THE FLESH!** **AMMON** pictures the **PASSION OF THE FLESH!** **AMALEK** pictures the **PERSISTENCE OF THE FLESH!**

Just like **ISRAEL** was repeatedly attacked by these nations, the **BELIEVER** is continually attacked by the **FLESH**. Our **FLESH** has its own desires. It does not like the **WAY OF HOLINESS** and the **WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**. The **FLESH** likes the **WAY OF EVIL**—the **WORLD & SATAN**.

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

*Ephesians 2:1–3—“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*

This **FLESH** that we carry around will do everything in its power to **ENSLAVE** us and **PREVENT** us from reaching our fullest potential in **JESUS CHRIST!** When we drift from the **LORD**, our **FLESH** steps right in to defeat and enslave us!

**B. Notice ISRAEL’S Fight!**

Understand that the **SCRIPTURE** tells us here that *“the LORD strengthened EGLON the king of MOAB against ISRAEL”* because they had done evil in **HIS** sight!

When the **LORD** strengthens your enemies against you, you’re in deep trouble! That is what happened to **ISRAEL** here! **EGLON**, king of **MOAB** garnered the help of both the **AMMONITES** and the **AMALEKITES** to help him!

**C. Notice ISRAEL’S Failure!**

**EGLON** established his headquarters in *“the city of palm trees”*—another name for the city of **JERICHO**. (*Deut. 34:3*) **JERICHO** was the first city conquered by **ISRAEL** when they entered the **PROMISED LAND**. (*Joshua 6*)

**JERICHO** represented all the victories that the **LORD** would give them in the future. To see their oppressors set up their headquarters in the very place where they once had enjoyed great military and spiritual victory must have been hard for **ISRAEL** to swallow.

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

**D. Notice ISRAEL’S Foolishness! vs. 14**

Because **ISRAEL** forsook the **LORD** in their walk day by day, they became the **SERVANTS** of **EGLON**. The word *“served”* means *“to work; to labor; to become a slave to”*.

**ISRAEL** had been **REDEEMED** by the **LORD GOD** to be **HIS SERVANTS!** But because of their **SINS**, the **LORD** allowed them to become the **SERVANT** of a pagan king again!

This condition lasted for 18 years! (That’s ten more years than their last enslavement to the king of **MESOPOTAMIA**, *Vs. 8*)

So, *WE SEE ISRAEL’S SIN...SUFFERING AND SERVITUDE!*

**III. WE SEE ISRAEL’S SUPPLICATION! (Vs 15a)**

When **ISRAEL** finally got tired of the **SUFFERING** and **SERVITUDE**, she called on the **LORD** and **HE** began the process of bringing her back to **HIMSELF**.

The first step to **RESTORATION** is **CONFESSION** and **REPENTANCE!**

*Proverbs 28:13—“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

**IV. WE SEE ISRAEL’S SAVIOUR! (Vs 15)**

Note that the **LORD** raised them up a **DELIVERER!**

**A. We See EHUD’s Person! (Vs 15a)**

**EHUD** was from the tribe of **BENJAMIN**. His name means *“strong”* or *“union”*. **BENJAMIN’S** allotment of land included the area around **JERICHO**. So, they would have suffered the most under **EGLON’S REIGN**. **EHUD**, had plenty of reasons for wanting **EGLON** and his armies gone.

We are also told that **EHUD** was *“a man left-handed”*. There seems to have been a great number of men from the tribe of **BENJAMIN** who were left-handed! (700 in *Judges 20:16*)

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

There were also many in **BENJAMIN** who were ambidextrous. (A list of them is found in *1 Chronicles 12:2ff.*)

**B. We See EHUD'S Plan! (Vs. 15b-19)**

Every so often, it appears that **ISRAEL** was required to pay tribute to **EGLON**. So, they sent their "*present*" to **EGLON** with a delegation led by **EHUD**.

**EHUD** took the liberty of making himself a double-edged dagger of about 18 inches in length. He strapped this dagger to his right thigh, under his cloak, and went to take the tribute money to the king. His plan was to get **EGLON** alone and assassinate him. It was a very daring plan!

If **EHUD** had been caught with that dagger, he would have been killed on the spot. Being left handed gave him an advantage. The guards would have expected any weapon to be strapped to his left side, not hidden on his right thigh under his garments. There is no indication that they searched him. No doubt the **LORD** was with him in this.

After delivering the "*present*" to **EGLON**, the delegation departed. After they had gone a short distance, **EHUD** came back and told **EGLON** that he had a secret message for him. The king, supposing that he was about to hear some great secret, told **EHUD** to keep silent until they were alone. **EGLON** then foolishly dismissed all of his servants.

**C. We See EHUD'S Performance! (Vs. 20-26)**

When **EHUD** got **EGLON** alone, he told the king that he had a message for the king from **GOD**. **EGLON** stood up to hear the message. **EHUD** reached under his cloak, drew the dagger and thrust it into **EGLON'S** body. The blade sank so deep into the king's body that the fat closes around the handle and **EHUD** could not retrieve the dagger.

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#2**  
**THE LORD RAISES UP EHUD TO DELIVER ISRAEL**  
**JUDGES 3:12-30**

Not that it mattered, because **EGLON** was dead.

**EHUD** locked the doors to the parlour where they were and he made his escape through a porch. **EGLON'S** servants found the doors locked and thought the king might be possibly relieving himself. Which is what the euphemism "*covereth his feet*" alludes to.

The phrase "*the dirt came out*", vs. 22, means that **EGLON'S BOWELS** emptied themselves when he died. The locked door combined with possibly the odor from the chamber convinced the servants that the king was "*privately predisposed*" and should not be disturbed.

They waited until they were literally embarrassed, vs. 25. Then they retrieved a key and entered the chamber and found the king dead upon the floor. But by this time, **EHUD** was long gone. vs. 26

**EHUD** went back and led **ISRAEL** to a great victory against the **MOABITES!** (Vs 27-30a)

**V. WE SEE ISRAEL'S SILENCE (OR REST)! (Vs 30b)**

It says here that the land then had rest fourscore (80) years!