

EHUD – AN UNLIKELY JUDGE – PART 2

--JUDGES 3:12-30--

INTRODUCTION:

Two weeks ago, we met Ehud, the Benjamite, a left-handed man that God raised up to deliver Israel from Eglon, king of Moab who had oppressed them for 18 years. Ehud is an unlikely judge who is a devious assassin who takes it upon himself to assassinate Eglon. For the majority of the passage concerning Ehud, we find God strangely absent, yet as we will see Ehud is the savior of Israel that God raised him up to be. As we look at the rest of his history today, we will see that the author weaves into that history some humor, but it is a disturbing and uncomfortable kind of humor. We will want to chuckle or even laugh, but we will feel uncomfortable doing so.

I. A FATTENED CALF (Judges 3:17)

- a. At first, in verse 17 we find Ehud doing the very thing he was _____ to do.
- b. In many parts of the world fatness is not generally regarded as something _____.
- c. The best clue that we have to how we are to view this statement comes from the meaning of Eglon's name, which is "_____", or "young bull" coupled with the type of tribute that was brought to him by the Israelites.

II. A GULLIBLE KING (Judges 3:18-20)

- a. As hoped and in accordance with his _____ Ehud is allowed to present the tribute to Eglon in person.
- b. When he arrives back, king Eglon _____ him again without any question.
- c. Before Ehud carries out the assassination, we are given a few more _____ to increase our satisfaction of Eglon's plight.
- d. Ehud moves toward the king and says he has a _____ from God for the king.

III. EMBARRASSED SERVANTS (Judges 3:23-25)

- a. Ehud now quickly makes his escape, going out through the doors of the cool room he closes them and _____ them.
- b. The servants return to _____ to the king, but they find the door to his private cool room locked.

IV. PORTLY SOLDIERS (Judges 3:26-29)

- a. While all this has transpired Ehud has made his _____.
- b. The author took his time in describing the downfall of Eglon, now he tells the rest of the story in a compact, matter-of-fact way, except for _____ detail.

V. EXPOSING A TYRANT (Judges 3:13-30)

- a. No one was _____ at Eglon during his 18 years of tyranny over Israel.
- b. What he did not know was it was _____ who had strengthened his hand to do all that he had done.
- c. They were like those, much later in the history of Israel, who saw God break the _____ of mighty Babylon and set His people free. (Psalm 126:1-2)

CONCLUSION:

Laughter is not the normal emotional response of God's people in the Bible. More often it is groaning and weeping as we see Israel doing in the book of Judges. But every once in a while, laughter breaks through, it does because we are suddenly shown things as God sees them instead of how we have become accustomed to seeing them. We fear tyrants because they are and do evil and we seem powerless to resist them. It is true they have real power, they may even be used by God to discipline His people, but they do not have absolute power, and their days are numbered. Their belief that they are invincible and will never be called to account for their actions is absurd. For it is God, not they, who rules the world and determines the fate of His people. The One who gave the tyrants of this world their power will also end it when He chooses to do so. Psalm 2:4 says speaking of the kings of the earth, "*He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them.*" (Psalm 2:4, NASB95) Ehud's history invites us to laugh with Him.

