

## EHUD – AN UNLIKELY JUDGE – PART 1

--JUDGES 3:12-30--

### INTRODUCTION:

After Othniel's death we meet a new judge, an unlikely judge by human standards, Ehud comes as quite a shock after Othniel. Othniel was a model judge, he was well-connected, brave, and heroic, upright, and not weighed down by the sin of intermarriage; he was the kind of man that we would expect God to raise up as a deliverer and judge for His people. The judge and deliverer who follows Othniel is a devious assassin, also chosen and raised up by God to save Israel.

### I. SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (Judges 3:12-14)

- a. We briefly looked at the first part of verse 12 last week which says, "*Now the sons of Israel again did \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the LORD.*" (Judges 3:12a, NASB95) (Romans 1:21)
- b. We are not told again that God's anger was kindled by Israel's evil, that is apparent, the author instead just launches into the \_\_\_\_\_, the judgment, the consequences of Israel's sin.
- c. What must be understood from verses 12 and 13 is that the consequences of sin are neither simply natural nor simply \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. At one level, Eglon's \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel was like the conquests of similar tyrants throughout history and could be explained in terms of simple opportunity, ambition, military prowess, and expansionism.
- e. But in this instance, the veil is pulled back for us, and we are allowed to see that this is a specific \_\_\_\_\_ of God used to discipline His people. (Amos 3:2)
- f. Sin and its consequences are both deadly \_\_\_\_\_ matters, they are no laughing matter.

### II. AMAZING GRACE (Judges 3:15-16)

- a. After 18 years of being enslaved to Eglon, king of Moab we see God's \_\_\_\_\_ poured out again on His people.

- b. There are two amazing things in the book of Judges: Israel's persistence in \_\_\_\_\_ and God's persistence in \_\_\_\_\_ them, and it is God's persistence in saving them that is most astonishing by far.
- c. Verse 15 continues and introduces us to the \_\_\_\_\_ that God chose to save Israel. The second part of verse 15 says, "*Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man.*" (Judges 3:15b, NASB95) (John 1:46)
- d. Not only from a human point of view is Ehud from the wrong tribe, but he is also wrong \_\_\_\_\_, he is left-handed. (Isaiah 62:8)
- e. God's choice of this man for a deliverer is surprising, but God's understanding and choice is \_\_\_\_\_ beyond our understanding.
- f. Even though God is the One who has raised up Ehud as the deliverer of Israel, God is strangely \_\_\_\_\_ from the end of verse 15-27.
- g. From a Biblical point of view things are never as simple as that. Events can never be neatly and simply \_\_\_\_\_ into things human beings do and things that God does.
- h. Ehud, on the other hand sees things quite differently. He realizes that he is being given a rare opportunity to get close to this \_\_\_\_\_ that has enslaved them.

### CONCLUSION:

We have seen Israel's sin and the consequences of their sin, again they are enslaved by a foreign power, a man strengthened by God for the purpose of disciplining Israel. After 18 years of enslavement and paying tribute to this tyrant, the LORD relents and raises up a very unlikely judge to deliver His people.

What do we learn from this passage? First, we are warned again of the danger of sin, sin that is boring, perverse, and addicting, avoid it at all costs. Second, never get over your astonishment and gratitude for God's grace made available to us through Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:11; Ephesians 2:1, 12, 4-10)