

Ehud and Eglon Jud. 3:12-30

Introduction:

Lord willing, for the next 3 weeks, we will be talking about one of the judges of Israel (Ehud, Deborah, and Samson).

According to Paul, Israel had judges for about 450 years (Acts 13:20). This time is close to the 430 years that Israel spent in slavery to Egypt (Ex. 12:40).

In this lesson, we will look directly at the reason as to why the children of Israel were punished. We will also notice the deliverance God gave them through Ehud. Finally, we will make a practical application for our lives.

It is important to note as we begin that Israel had a pattern in the faithfulness to God. They would be faithful for a time and then fall away. They would ask for deliverance. When they were again free, they would fall into unfaithfulness again. This was a pattern that they could not seem to break.

I. When the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, they were punished (3:12).

- A. Notice (in each of the three lessons that we will have on the judges of Israel) that it was God who punished them.
 - 1. Ehud (Jud. 3:12) – They served Moab for 18 years.
 - 2. Deborah
 - a. Jud. 4:1-2 - When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. {2} So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor.
 - 3. Samson
 - a. Jud. 13:1 - Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.
 - 4. In fact, in the case of each of the judges, the Bible says that it was God that punished Israel because of their unfaithfulness to Him.
- B. Notice the reason that these nations came up against them.
 - 1. Jud. 2:20-22 - Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, {21} I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, {22} so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not."
 - 2. Not only did God punish them, but He did it to see if they were going to be faithful to Him.
- C. God has always wanted to know if we are going to be faithful to Him in all situations that we find ourselves.
 - 1. Remember Abraham (Gen. 22:1-19)
 - a. Gen. 22:1 - Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2. Israel
 - a. Just after God gave them the 10 commandments, Israel was afraid; and asked that God never speak to them like that again.
 - b. **Ex. 20:20** - And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."
 3. Israel again
 - a. God wanted to know if Israel was going to be faithful while they were in the wilderness for forty years.
 - b. **Deut. 8:2** - And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.
 4. Even David tells us that God test the heart to know if we will be faithful.
 - a. **I Chr. 29:17** - I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness.
- D. The trials that we go through do not have to be negative.
1. **Js. 1:2-4** - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. {4} But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
 2. **Rom. 5:3-5** - And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4} and perseverance, character; and character, hope. {5} Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- E. Here in Judges 3, God is testing Israel to see if they will return to Him and be faithful to Him.

II. When Israel was punished, they would cry out for a deliverer to rescue them (3:15).

- A. It was common for Israel to cry out to God for help when they were in trouble.
1. When the Israelites were punished, they "cried out to the Lord" (direct quote in each instance except for the time of Samson).
 2. **Jud. 3:9; 3:15; 4:3; 6:6-7; 10:10**
 3. God was faithful to them by delivering them each time they cried out to Him.
- B. Notice how God delivered them in the story of Ehud (3:15-30).
1. Ehud is going to bring the tribute (gift, probably money) to Eglon, king of Moab (3:15).
 2. The Bible tells us that Ehud is left-handed (3:15-16).
 - a. Most people in that day were right-handed.
 - b. He made a dagger and hid it under his clothes on his right side.

- c. When the guards of Eglon would check to see if Ehud had a weapon, they would check his left side (because he would normally use his right hand to pull out the sword).
 - d. However, because he was left-handed, he was able to hide the dagger on his right side; a place that the guards would not look.
 - 3. In order to be alone with the king, Ehud tells the king that he has a secret for him (3:18-19).
 - 4. Ehud takes the dagger and kills Eglon and then escapes (3:20-23).
 - 5. The servants of Eglon eventually find him (3:24-25).
 - 6. When Ehud escapes, he gathered the children of Israel and they defeated Moab that day (3:26-30).
 - 7. God delivered Israel out of the hand of Eglon, king of Moab.
- C. God has always promised to deliver His people.
 - 1. I Cor. 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
 - 2. Col. 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, { 14 } in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - 3. If God can deliver:
 - a. Noah
 - b. Lot out of Sodom and Gomorrah, then
 - c. II Pet. 2:9 - then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,
- D. God chose different ways to deliver His people.
 - 1. In Judges 3, He chose to use Ehud.

III. We, also, need a deliverer to save us from our problem.

- A. The problem that we all face is sin.
 - 1. No matter how hard we try, we cannot overcome sin on our own.
 - 2. We need help to overcome sin, just as the children of Israel needed help to overcome Moab.
- B. The help that we get is from Christ.
 - 1. I Cor. 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, { 4 } and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
 - 2. Gal. 1:4 - who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
 - 3. I Jn. 4:10 - In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- C. We have that great deliverer in Christ.

Conclusion: