

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
Judges 3:1-31
Wednesday January 16, 2013

Judges 3:1-2

Judges 1 – A snapshot of the political and social condition of the people.

Judges opens with the apathy of the Second Generation.

Judges 2 – closed with a description of the “Cycle of Sin”.

Judges 3 – Begins to chronicle the events of the judges.

1. Verses 1-6 – Necessity of Growth

2. Verses 7-11 – The 1st Judge – Othniel Godly Background

3. Verses 12-30 – The 2nd Judge – Ehud A Defective Man

4. Verse 31 – 3rd Judge – Shamgar A Pagan Peasant

1. Verses 1-6 – Necessity of Growth:

There are 3 lessons of growth for Israel:

1. God Would Use The Nations To Test Israel: Judge 3:1

Jer 17:9-10

“hearts” – are the seat of who we are.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

2. God Would Use Their Enemies To Teach The Next Generations
How To War: Judge 3:2

Judge 3:3-4

3. Verses 5-6 – Progression In Sin – Judge 3:5

Israel Dwelt Among The Enemy:

Judge 3:6

Israel Entered Into Relations With Their Enemies:

The Judges: Teaches us that God loves to use ordinary people!

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Each of the Judges were very different, but they did share some common traits:

1. They were regular people like us
2. They each possessed different talents and abilities
3. They drew their strength from God
4. They were willing to step out in faith and trust God for the victory

2. Verses 7-11 – The 1st Judge – Othniel Godly Background:

Verses 7-9 – The Cycle Of Sin:

Without the true God in their thoughts, Israel was enticed with the pagan gods – “and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

Judge 3:8

Prov 14:34

“Cushan” – Rishathaim means “double wickedness or double darkness” (cruel man)

Judge 3:9

It took them 8 years of bondage before they finally woke up and Prayed, (Judges 3:8)

Isa 45:21-22

John 8:36

He came from a family that knew God and was dedicated to God. Num 14:24 “He has followed the Lord fully” Deut 1:36

Solid Family Background: Judges 1:13

Caleb was successful in passing down his spiritual heritage to Othniel.

Othniel's 3 Marks Of A Trusted Leader:

1. Othniel Was A Man Of Proven Ability: Joshua 15; Judges 1:11-15
Judge 3:10

His ability and courage wasn't the key to his victory – it was the Holy Spirit!

Zech 4:6

In the NT "the Spirit" – is in every believer and the Spirit is not removed – John 14:16-17

2. Othniel Demonstrated Courage
3. Othniel Was A Man Of Personal Faith: so that he prevailed

Judge 3:11

3. Verses 12-30 – The 2nd Judge – Ehud A Defective Man:

God's Judgment Was Upon His People: "So the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel,"

Judge 3:13

Jericho – City of Palms

Judge 3:14-15

Benjamin – "son of my right hand" (symbol of strength); Ehud – was left handed.

In ancient times, left-handedness was looked upon as a curse.

Sinister – Latin for left-handed

Dexterous – having skill and ability, Latin for right-handed

Ehud Was A Man With Limitations: "Benjamite, a left-handed man" – "hindered in his right hand"; in Ehud's day it was a handicap!

2 Cor 11 – Paul, when I am weak then am I strong.

Ehud Was A Prominent Man: "And the sons of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab."

Judge 3:16-19

Ehud Was A Courageous Man: (He went alone) Judge 3:20

Ehud Not Only Accepted His Left-handedness, He Used It: Judge 3:21-22

Judge 3:23-26

Verses 27-30 – Great Victory:

Ehud Was A Spiritually Committed Man: Judge 3:28

Judge 3:29-30

4. Verse 31 – 3rd Judge – Shamgar A Pagan Peasant:

“Shamgar” – Canaanite name that meant “the desolate dragged away one”

“oxgoad” – was a stick about 8 ft. long with a sharp point on 1 end to prod the oxen along as they plowed, and a flat blade on the other end to clean off the plowshare.

Judges 5:6-9

Application:

1. We must all acknowledge and accept that we have limitations and disabilities.
2. We must understand that we can't compromise or appease the enemy.
3. We must understand what our chief weapon is. Ehud used a sharp double-edged sword that he hid under his clothes to defeat the enemy.
Eph 6:17

Heb 4:12-13; Ps 119:9