

EHUD AND SHAMGAR

STORY ELEMENTS:

- **Text:** Judges 3:12-31
- **Setting:** beginning approx. 1340 B.C. near Jericho
- **Main Characters:** God, Ehud, Eglon, and Shamgar
- **Plot:** Ehud delivers Israel from Eglon, King of the Moabites. Another judge, Shamgar, fights against the Philistines.
- **Key word(s):** “the LORD hath _____” (vs. 28)
- **Climax:** “*And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee.*” (3:20)

Ehud versus Eglon

1. Whenever the Hebrews lapsed back into sin, God always raised up an oppressor – this time it was Eglon the King of the Moabites.
 - a. Eglon was confederate with the _____ and Ammonites to subdue Israel.
 - b. Eglon made a house near the old city of _____ (city of palms – vs.13), where he apparently stayed when he collected tribute from Israel.
 - c. Incidentally, Eglon was a very _____. (17)
2. When Israel would cry for deliverance, God would raise up a judge. This time it was Ehud, a _____¹ Benjamite. (15). Ehud’s strategy to defeat Eglon consisted of two parts:
 - a. He would carry a _____ weapon - Ehud made a dagger about 18 inches in length and hid it under his clothing on his right thigh – a place easily accessed by the lefthand.
 - b. He would arrange a _____ meeting
 - i. He journeyed to Eglon’s home to pay Israel’s _____ (called a present in the KJV). Later Ehud sent away his entourage and returned to Jericho from Gilgal.
 - ii. Upon return to Eglon’s home, Ehud declared that he had a “secret _____” to which Eglon responded by dismissing the court attendants
 - iii. With Eglon alone, Ehud declared “I have a message from God unto thee,” and then thrust his concealed dagger into Eglon, killing him.
3. With Eglon dead, Ehud was able to muster the Hebrew army and defeat the Moabites, slaying _____ of their most valiant warriors (26-30)
4. Ehud gave the _____ of victory to God. (28)

Shamgar versus the Philistines

5. Only one verse is given to Shamgar’s exploits – he used an _____ (a wooden stick with a sharp end and a curved blade used for cleaning a plow) to slay 600 Philistine warriors.
6. What does Shamgar’s choice of weapon imply about his battle with the Philistines? _____

¹ The Hebrew phrase reads “shut of his right hand.” Ehud may have had a disability or an injury that prevented him from using his right hand.

Applications

7. God judged his people with other nations who were often more wicked than Israel. Is this just? Matthew Henry explains: “Israelites did ill, and, we may suppose, Moabites did worse; yet because God commonly punishes the sins of his own people in this world, that, the flesh being destroyed, the _____ may be saved, Israel is weakened and Moab strengthened against them.”² (1 Cor. 5:5)

1 Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

8. Ehud was lefthanded, but he came from the tribe of Benjamin, which means “son of my right hand.” There’s a lesson in the irony: God picked a man weakened in his right arm so that Israel would remember that God is our _____.

Psalms 17:7 *Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee From those that rise up against them.*

9. The judges are often men who are despised, different, or in some way _____. The book of Judges illustrates over and over that...

1Co 1:27 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are _____;*

Answer Key

Key word(s): delivered | 1) a) Amalekites; b) Jericho; c) fat man | 2) left-handed; a) concealed; b) private; i) tribute; ii) errand | 3) 10,000 | 4) glory | 5) oxgoad | 6) That he was trying to farm his land when he was attacked by marauders | 7) spirit | 8) strength | 9) unusual | 1 Cor. 1:27 *mighty*

² Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.