

## Lesson 76 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_" (v 28)

Climax: "And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee." (3:20)

Ehud	versus	Egloi	1
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1.	When	ever the Hebrews lapsed back into sin, God always raised up an oppressor – this time it was Eglon the		
		f the Moabites.		
		Eglon was confederate with the and Ammonites to subdue Israel.		
	b.	Eglon made a house near the old city of (city of palms – v 13), where he apparently		
		stayed when he collected tribute from Israel.		
	c.	Incidentally, Eglon was a very (v 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 (vv 26-30)		
4.	Ehud g	gave the of victory to God. (v 28)		
		ar versus the Philistines		
		ne verse is given to Shamgar's exploits – he used an (a wooden stick with a shape		
٥.		nd 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?			
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## 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

	saved, Israel is weakened and Moab strengthened against them."2 (1 Cor. 5:5)
	eter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, at 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
	<b>Ilm 17:7</b> Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their st 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
	<b>o 1:27</b> But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the ak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
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erra	wer Key: Key word(s): delivered   1) a) Amalekites; b) Jericho; c) fat man   2) left-handed; a) concealed; b) private; i) tribute; ii) and   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) ength   9) unusual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.