



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 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 – 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 gave the _____ of victory to God. (v 28)

Shamgar versus the Philistines

5. Only one verse is given to Shamgar’s exploits – he used an _____ (a wooden stick with a shape 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? _____

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

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.

