

Judges 3: The Rise of the Judges

Getting started: Describe a time when a failure to address a small problem turned into a much bigger problem later on.

Read vv. 1-6**Nations in the land**

1. Name the reasons given for allowing enemy nations to remain in the land following the general conquest under Joshua? (vv. 1-2, 4)
2. Name the nations that were left in the land (v. 3). How did their presence align with God's will? (Joshua 13:6; 17:12, 18) What danger did their presence pose? (v. 5-6)

Read vv. 7-11**Othniel Rises Up**

3. In what ways did Israel again do evil in the sight of the Lord? How did God respond? (vv. 7-8)
4. What did Israel do before God sent deliverance? (v. 9; c.f. Ps. 34:17) Whom did God raise up for Israel's defense? (vv. 8-10) Who deserves the credit for this remarkable victory? (v. 10)

Read vv. 12-30**Ehud delivers a message**

5. When Israel again did evil, what oppressor did God send her? When Israel once again cried out for help, what answer did God send to her? (vv. 12-15)

6. What occasion prompted Ehud to make a visit to the king of Moab? What unique personal feature was Ehud able to use to his advantage? (v. 15) What tactic did Ehud use to get the king to clear the room? Explain how a king would agree to be left alone with his enemy. (vv. 17-19)
7. What message did God have for King Eglon? What happened when Ehud delivered it? (vv. 20-22) How was Ehud able to escape? (23-26)
8. What tribe had been particularly impacted by this oppression? What did Ehud do to respond to the surge of Moabites headed to punish his people? How effective was Ehud's resistance at the Jordan? (vv. 27-30)

Read v. 31**Shamgar takes a stand**

9. Who was the God's answer to the oppression of the Philistines? What was the means of this deliverance? (tip look up the item online or in a Bible dictionary). What makes Shamgar's deliverance so remarkable?

Going Deeper

10. This chapter reveals the works of three different judges. Based on what you have read, define what a judge is and suggest a better title for them.
11. In each example in this chapter, God used a man to bring deliverance for His people. In your own words, describe the responsibility of both God and man in securing deliverance.