

Judges 3

Judges 3.1-8

V1 – The pagan nations were still in the land – God was testing the Israelites

-**Another purpose?** So the younger generations would have to learn how to fight the enemy

V2 – Many of the younger people had never had to fight for the land

-A lesson there: What we don't have to struggle for, we don't appreciate very much

V3 – Four groups are mentioned: Philistines, Canaanite, Sidonians, and Hivites

-Philistines – probably from Crete

-They plagued Israel until the time of the Maccabees (not mentioned in the New Testament)

V4 – God left them there as a test

V5 – Some more foreign groups were still in the land

V6 – **What did the Israelites do?** Intermarried with the pagan people (strictly forbidden)

-People were killed in *Numbers 25* for doing this

-We should be encouraged to marry only Christians – **Read 2 Corinthians 6.14-17**

-Advantages of marrying a Christian?

1. One less area to argue over (religion)

2. The husband and wife will encourage each other

3. Children will be trained in the faith (in mixed marriages, usually one child goes with the mother and one goes with the father)

-Intermarriage was the plan Balaam had for the defeat of Israel

-**How would it defeat Israel?** Mixed marriages compromise the faith

V7 – **Result of intermarriage?** Israelites forgot about God and worshipped Baal

V8 – **How mad was God?** He sold the Israelites into service to the king of Mesopotamia

-**For how long?** 8 years

Judges 3.9-11

V9 - **What did the Israelites do?** Cried to God for help

-**Response from God?** He sent the first judge Othniel **Judge #1**

-**Who was Othniel?** Son-in-law of Caleb

-Othniel was the one who had won the contest to get Caleb's daughter in marriage

V10 – **Result?** Holy Spirit came on Othniel, and Othniel defeated the king of Mesopotamia

V11 – **How long did Othniel serve as a judge?** 40 years

Judges 3.12-14

V 12 – What happened after Othniel died? The Israelites turned back to paganism

-What did God do? He allowed Eglon (king of Moab) to defeat the Israelites
(Moabites were the descendants of Esau)

V 13 – What specific city was lost to Moab? Jericho (nickname: City of Palm Trees)

-This was a terrible loss – think of the great miracle performed there in the capture of Jericho, the salvation of Rahab, etc.

V 14 – How long were the people in bondage to Eglon? 18 years

Judges 3.15-23

V 15 – The second cycle begins

-What did the Israelites do? Cried to God for help

-Whom did God raise up? Ehud (of the tribe of Benjamin) **Judge #2**

-What was unusual about Ehud? Left-handed

V 16 – What did Ehud make for the attack? An 18 inch 2-edged sword

-Where did he conceal it? Under his robe on the right-hand side

-The purpose of shaking hands today is to show that we don't have a weapon in the right hand (we come in peace, etc.)

-Ehud would use his left hand for the assassination

V 17 – The excuse for Ehud for going to see Eglon? To pay "tribute" (money the Israelites owed him as his servants)

-A characteristics of Ehud? Very fat (Jabba the Hut?)

V 18 – Ehud sent the "porters" away (a lot of money in tribute)

V 19 – Ehud turned his back to the idols at Gilgal = Eglon was in the vicinity of Gilgal

-Message of Ehud? I have a secret message

-everyone was asked to leave

V 20 – Very interesting = "This is a message from God"

-Eglon stood up

V 21 – How was Ehud able to kill Eglon? By using his left hand – put the sword in the belly

V 22 – Eglon was caught completely off guard

-the sword went all the way in (the handle was covered by fat)

V 23 – What did Ehud do? Left and closed the doors behind him

Judges 3.24-25

V 24 – What did the servants think? Eglon was just going to the bathroom

V 25 – After awhile, they opened the doors and found Eglon dead

Judges 3.26-31

V 26 – Very interesting: Ehud passed by the idols
-Many idols were being worshipped in Israel

V 27 – What did Ehud do? He led the Israelites in an attack against the Moabites

V 28 – What area did the Israelites capture? All the way to the Jordan River; they would not allow anyone to cross

V 29 – How many Moabites were killed? 10,000

V 30 – How long did Israel have peace? 80 years

V 31 – The third judge? Samgar **Judge #3**

-What did Samgar do? Killed 600 Philistines

Lesson: Even one person can do great things with the help of God

-The only other mention of Samgar is in *Judges 5.6*

-He was similar to Esther = one person, but she saved God's people

Lessons from Judges 3:

1. God will deliver his people when they repent
2. He will punish his people when they rebel against him

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