

Judges 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; (Joshua's generation knew war, but these younger generations did not)

² Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

³ Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. (Hamath= a Kenite stronghold) (Baalhermon = lord of the multitude)

⁴ And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵ And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: (They were told to wipe these heathen out, not live with them. Most of these tribes had intermixed with the fallen angles and worshipped idols)

⁶ And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. Deuteronomy-7 (God warned them not to do this)

⁷ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. (The groves are where they had fertility orgies to false gods like Ishtar and Ashteroth <exchanging cakes, rolling eggs, mating like bunnies, sunrise orgies> → Easter, today)

⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years. (Mesopotamia – the land between 2 rivers <Tigris & Euphrates> Iraq, today)

⁹ And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even

Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. (The first judge – Caleb's nephew)

¹⁰ And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. (God gave him the victory)

¹¹ And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹² And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. (Moab- Descendents of Abraham's nephew, Lot) (Eglon = calf like)

¹³ And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. (city of palm trees = Jericho) (Amalek- the grandson of Esau – these were his descendants; Ammon- descendents of Lot) (After Joshua defeated Jericho, God told them not to re-fortify or re-build Jericho or they would be cursed, see Deuteronomy-34:3)

¹⁴ So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. (They became prisoners in their own land. The Moabites are taking most of the food that they are growing on their land)

¹⁵ But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab. (Ehud – the second judge) (in Hebrew, lefthanded = shut of his right hand, i.e. crippled in his right hand) (present= minka, it's the same word as a meat or meal offering)

¹⁶ But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. (cubit- usually it is the length from the king's elbow to the tip of his fingers <usually 18-24 inches>; In this verse, the word, translated cubit, is a different word in the Hebrew. It means about 9 inches)

¹⁷ And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man. (Fat is translated handsome in the Septuagint. Robustness or girth in those days was considered good looking. They became fat at the expense of Israel's labors)

¹⁸ And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present. (To get them out of harm's way; Ehud intended to kill Eglon)

¹⁹ But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him. (quarries= graven images, such a idols – bad translation) (errand = word or message)

²⁰ And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat. (It was common at this time to have an open, private room on the roof to escape the heat)

²¹ And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: (Eglon was caught off guard because he was meeting with a crippled man. God used a crippled man to take down a corrupt king) see 1Corinthians-1:27 (We will see 7 examples of God using the weak to confound the mighty, in this Book)

²² And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out. (haft = the handle)

²³ Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them. (A delay tactic so he can make his escape)

²⁴ When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber. (covereth his feet = nature calls – a figure of speech)

²⁵ And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened them: and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

²⁶ And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath. (Seirath is in Ephraim)

²⁷ And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with

him from the mount, and he before them. (A true leader leads from the front, not "from behind")

²⁸ And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over. (Ehud gave God the credit because it was God that delivered the Moabites. Ephraim secured the Jordan crossing so that Moab couldn't send reinforcements across the river)

²⁹ And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man. (Lusty=fat; valour=wealth) (They got fat and wealthy by taking the tribute from Israel)

³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years. (80 years)

³¹ And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel. (Third judge) (Ox goad is translated ploughshare in the Septuagint. Either way, it is an implement used for cultivating with oxen)