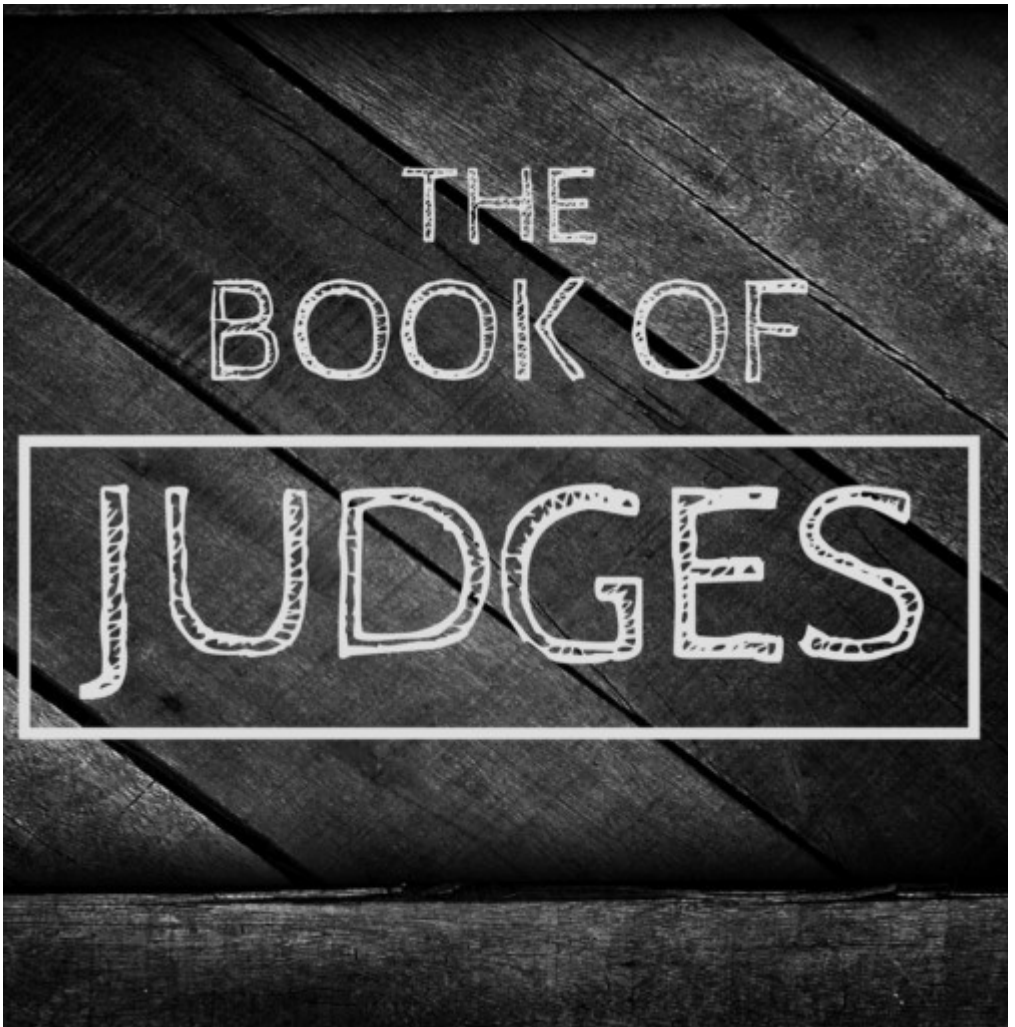


# Let's Worship God

7th-12th February 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 3:1-6 - Knowing War**

When we studied the first chapter of Judges, we noted three reasons God allowed the heathen nations to remain in the Promised Land: 1) Because of Israel's earlier faithlessness, 2) To test Israel's future faithfulness, and 3) To prevent wild animals from taking over areas left empty of people. Now we see another reason: That the generations of Israel might know war. Why would God want His people to experience war? As we've seen already, and as our future studies in Judges will reveal, the LORD used war to chastise Israel. The difficulties of warfare and, particularly, the humiliation of defeat taught the Israelites not to take their successes for granted, but to acknowledge that any peace or prosperity they enjoyed came from God. Successes in war will come when they repent and cry out to Him. Furthermore, as we learn in Romans 5:3-5, the Holy Spirit is pleased to use adversity to produce endurance, character, and hope among His people.

There are many professing Christians, today, who believe and teach that God never wants His people to suffer or undergo hardship, but God's Word tells us this is not true. Rather, He uses adversity to correct us, shape us, and grow us.

## **Questions**

1. Why did God want Israel to know war?
2. Why does He send hardship into our lives?
3. Is it true that God never wants His people to suffer?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God build endurance, character, and hope in us when we undergo hardship.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise: Psalm 13 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 3:1-6 - A Serious Problem**

Judges 2:22 and 3:4 tell us that God left these nations - the Philistines, Canaanites, Sidonians, Hivites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, and Jebusites - in the land in order to test Israel's faithfulness to His commandments He had revealed through Moses. One such commandment, found in Exodus 34:16 and Deuteronomy 7:3-4, forbade intermarriage between Israelites and pagans. The LORD warned that if the Israelites gave their daughters in marriage to men of these nations, or if they took wives for themselves from these nations, the unbelieving spouses would teach the next generation to worship false gods.

We need to note that this commandment was not based on bloodline, but on faith. A person like Rahab in Joshua 2 and 6, or like Ruth, who forsook false gods and worshipped the LORD could become an Israelite. (In fact, those two women married into the tribe of Judah and became ancestors of King David and Jesus Christ). What God forbids is not marriage across racial, national, or cultural lines, but between believers and unbelievers. In II Corinthians 6:14-16, Paul says, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?" Marriage between God's covenant people and unbelievers is certainly an "unequally yoked" marriage.

In the time of the judges, Israel disobeyed the LORD and intermarried with worshippers of false gods. The children of such unions were taught by the unbelieving parents to worship these false gods. As it was for ancient Israel, unmarried Christians, today, must remember that God forbids Christians to marry unbelievers. To do so tragically brings the next generation under the influence of false religion.

### **Questions**

1. Why were Israelites forbidden to intermarry with the other nations?
2. What does it mean to be unequally yoked?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God preserve us from the influence of false religion.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise: Psalm 14 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 3:7-11 - Othniel**

As the generation who could remember the mighty acts of the LORD in the days of Moses and Joshua was passing away, the younger generations forgot the LORD and turned to the worship of false gods. (As we saw yesterday, this was made worse by the fact that many of them had a pagan parent). Particularly popular was the worship of the many versions of the god Baal and the goddess Ashtoreth or Asherah. For this faithlessness, God gave them over to Cushan-rishathaim (whose name means "Cushan of the double crime"), a king from Mesopotamia. After eight years of oppression under this king, the Israelites cried out to the LORD for deliverance. God sent them Othniel.

In chapter one, we encountered Othniel who captured the town of Debir and thereby won the hand of Achsah daughter of Caleb in marriage. We noted then that God was preparing Othniel through these valiant deeds to serve Him as the first of the judges whom He would use to rescue the Israelites from their oppressors. We are told "The Spirit of the LORD was upon him," meaning that God specially conferred upon Othniel the strength, wisdom and authority he needed to lead Israel to victory. He defeated Cushan-rishathaim and liberated Israel from his oppression.

Othniel and the other judges whom God sends as deliverer foreshadow the great Deliverer, Jesus Christ. When we cry out to Him in sorrow at our sins, Jesus delivers us from the oppression of sin and death

## **Questions**

1. Why did God give Israel over to be ruled by Cushan-rishathaim?
2. Why did He send Othniel to deliver them?
3. Whom does Othniel foreshadow?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God that He has sent us a Deliverer, Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise: Psalm 15 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 3:12-14 - Eglon, King of Moab

Though God had delivered Israel by means of Othniel, the Israelites did not remain faithful to Him. This time, when they did evil in the LORD's sight, He strengthened Eglon, the King of Moab, to be His instrument of chastisement for His people. As Eglon's strength grew, he became the head of a coalition of Moabites, Ammonites, and Amalekites.

Israel had a long and oft-troubled history with these three nations. The Moabites and Ammonites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Rather than aiding their kinsmen, the Israelites, during their years in the wilderness, these nations had opposed Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3-4). Likewise, the Amalekites were related to the Israelites, being descended from Jacob's brother Esau (Genesis 36:12). They had attacked Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 17:8-16). Now they banded together to make war on Israel, capturing the city of the palms (the well-watered area around the ruins of Jericho). They forced Israel to serve Eglon for eighteen years.

God is Sovereign. The nations are under His command. The LORD did not implant the sinful desires of Eglon and the Moabites, Ammonites, and Amalekites to invade and oppress Israel in their hearts, but He sinlessly used their sin for His own ends. When we are oppressed, persecuted or mistreated, God uses even the sinful motives of our enemies for His own ends, for His glory and our good.

## Questions

1. How were the Moabites and Ammonites related to Israel?
2. How were the Amalekites related to Israel?
3. How did God use these nations?

## Prayer Points

1. Praise God that He sovereignly uses even the sinful motives of men for His glory and our good.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise:** Psalm 16 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 3:15-30 - Ehud

When the Israelites cry out for deliverance from Eglon, King of Moab, the LORD raises up as their deliverer Ehud. Ehud is a man of the tribe of Benjamin by whom the Israelites send their tribute (treasures they are required to pay) to Eglon. Eglon has apparently built a palace for himself in the city of palms near Gilgal and the ruins of Jericho, for it is there that Ehud meets with him with a message from God. The "message" comes in the form of Eglon's death. Being left-handed, Ehud has hidden a short sword strapped to his right thigh. When he gets Eglon alone, he draws the blade and stabs him.

What follows is an exciting story of how Ehud makes his escape while Eglon's servants delay to check on him. In the hill country of Ephraim, Ehud calls the people to battle with the sound of a trumpet. The army of Israel moves quickly to the fords of the Jordan, cutting off the Moabites' route of escape. They destroy all of the Moabite army - ten-thousand men.

Again, we see that God is in control of these events - as Ehud remarks in verse 28. Just as He used Eglon to chastise Israel (and the Israelites could do nothing to resist), now He uses Ehud to defeat Eglon and his army (and nothing the Moabites do can stop it). In an instant, Israel is changed from a defeated, weak and oppressed people to a strong, victorious nation.

When the LORD changes our hearts and brings us to salvation in Jesus Christ, He likewise transforms us from miserable, defeated people, oppressed by sin, into joyous, victorious people, freed in Jesus Christ.

## Questions

1. What was the "message" Ehud brought to Eglon from God?
2. How did Ehud get away without being caught?
3. How do we see that God is in control of these events?

## Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He has freed us from sin in Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise: Psalm 17 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 3:31 - Shamgar**

The judges of Israel from whom the book takes its name were twelve in number - six major and six minor judges. Today we come to the first of the minor judges. We do not call them "minor" because they were necessarily of less importance in their own time, but simply because the book tells us little about these men.

The account of Shamgar's deeds takes up one verse in chapter three. However, in Judges 5:6 we read "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath . . . the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways." The oppression at this time comes from the Philistines who live in the south-western part of the country. Society has become insecure and disordered. It is not safe to travel openly.

In a feat that foreshadows Samson, Shamgar kills six-hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. An oxgoad is a long pole with a metal point affixed to one end used to prod oxen. According to I Samuel 13:21, when Israel is oppressed by the Philistines at a later time, the Philistines do not allow Israelites to sharpen their own tools or affix their own goads - these have to be done by a Philistine smith. Perhaps a similar policy is in place in Shamgar's day and Shamgar takes exception, defeating so many Philistines with what might be considered a symbol of Israel's oppression. Only the LORD can give a man the strength to accomplish such a feat.

Though little is said of Shamgar, notably we are told "and he also saved Israel." God uses little known people to do great things for His Kingdom. We do not need to be mighty men or famous preachers to do great service for the Church. Let us labor for the Kingdom faithfully where we are and with the gifts God has given us, and trust Him to accomplish His plan.

### **Questions**

1. What is an oxgoad?
2. What is so extraordinary about what Shamgar did?
3. From whom did Shamgar's strength by which he did this come?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

### **Memory Verse**

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them. Judges 3:9a

**Praise: Psalm 18 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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