

A close-up photograph of a hand gripping the hilt of a sword. The blade is curved and highly reflective, catching the light and creating a bright, glowing edge. The hand is positioned in the lower right, with fingers wrapped around the hilt. The background is solid black, which makes the metallic sheen of the sword stand out prominently.

Ehud the Sinister

Judges 3:12-30

Ehud the Sinister

- Eglon, king of Moab, is the perfect picture of the flesh. He is out of control, self-indulgent, fat, lazy, evil, and full of pride.
- Ehud, judge in Israel, is a great image of us. He has little power or influence, has what is considered a disability, and has to trust that God will use him successfully to overcome.

Israel's Dilemma

- Their Foes

- Judges 3:12-13 - “And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. 13 Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.”

Israel's Dilemma

- Moabites, Ammonites and Amalekites -- all three nations were ongoing problems for Israel, and all three were relatives of Israel.
- All of these nations worshiped false gods.
 - Moabites served Chemosh
 - Ammonites worshiped Moloch
 - Amalekites worshiped multiple pagan gods.

Israel's Dilemma

- These three nations are a picture of our own battle with the flesh.
 - Eph. 2:1-3 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others”

Israel's Dilemma

- The flesh does not submit to the Word of God. It must be forced into submission.
 - Rom. 7:22-25 - “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Israel's Dilemma

- Their Fights
 - Judges 3:13
- Our battle with the flesh
 - Gal. 5:16-17 - “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

Israel's Dilemma

- The outcome is determined by who we yield to as we fight
 - Rom. 6:16 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Israel's Dilemma

- Their Failures
 - Judges 3:13
- Eglon established his headquarters in “the city of palm trees,” another name for the city of Jericho (Deut. 34:3). Jericho was the first city conquered by Israel when they entered the Promised Land.

Israel's Dilemma

- The flesh will do anything to take back the ground we have won
 - 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

Israel's Dilemma

- Their Foolishness
 - Judges 3:14 - “So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.”

Israel's Deliverer

- His Problem

- Judges 3:15 - “But when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab.”
- Ehud was left handed - “dy rja vya wnymy ish itter yad yemino: a man lame in his right hand, and therefore obliged to use his left.”

Israel's Deliverer

- Many Benjamites were lefthanded, but Ehud was lame
 - Judges 20:16 - “Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.”
- Fortunately, most Benjaminites were ambidextrous
 - 1Chron. 12:1-2 - “...they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, 2 armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren.”

Israel's Deliverer

- This would seem like a handicap for a would be deliverer. Ehad took what many would see as a liability and turned it into an asset.
- This motivates us to stop using our limits as excuses for why we can't help
 - 2Cor. 12:10 - "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Israel's Deliverer

- His Plan
 - Judges 3:15-19

Israel's Deliverer

- The flesh knows your limits and weaknesses, but it underestimates what you can do by the power of God
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - 1John 4:4 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

Israel's Deliverer

- His Performance
 - Judges 3:20-26
- Extreme means and an unpleasant story, but in our personal war against the flesh, Jesus said we may have to become extreme
 - Mark 9:43-48

Israel's Deliverance

- Following
 - Judges 3:27-28 - “And it happened, when he arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountains; and he led them. 28 Then he said to them, Follow me, for the LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. So they went down after him, seized the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over.”

Israel's Deliverance

- Fighting
 - Judges 3:29 - “And at that time they killed about ten thousand men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped.”
- Finishing
 - Judges 3:30 - “So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.”

Ehud The Sinister

- God has given us everything we need to enable us to spiritual victory: His Word, prayer, Providence, and His Presence in our lives.
- We all have problems with the flesh. But it does not have to win the victory over us.
- We are lot like Ehud, unlikely conquerors, limited in one way or another.
- We can hide the sword of the spirit in our hearts and strike the flesh, delivering ourselves from bondage to it
 - Psalm 119:11 - “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You”