

# Judges 3

Jesus

## I. Nations Remain

1 Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might **test Israel** by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan 2 (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be **taught to know war**, at least those who had not formerly known it),

- God tests the complacent second generation in Canaan **by war...**

3 [God leaves in the land] ...five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. 4 And they were left, that He might **test Israel by them**, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. 5 Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they **served their gods.**

- **Enemies left to test Israel:** What is most important Me or your sin?
  1. Dwelling among them
  2. Taking wives of them
  3. Giving children to them to marry

**Sad when God gives us over** to the desires of our hearts

**Romans 1:24** [After idolatry] ... God also **gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 [because they] exchanged the truth of God for the lie...

- Fighting for what we want

**Numbers 11:19** [Despised God's provision and wanted meat. Moses...] You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, 20 but for a whole month, **until it comes out of your nostrils** and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the Lord who is among you...

- **High cost of stubbornness?**
  1. Slaves to Sin
  2. Defeated Life

**Manifold Wisdom of God:** Uses our mess to train us...**to be taught war** v2

**Psalms 144:1** Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who **trains my hands for war**, And my **fingers for battle...**

- **First:** To know who our enemy is/and is not ...

**Ephesians 6:10** ... my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities**, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Enemy is the devil/demons not our mother in law thus...
- We can't win in our own power. E.g. Naked/bleeding 7 sons of Sceva

**God uses an enemy we can't beat to turn us to the One who can**

**Mark 10:27** [Jesus] ... with God **all things are possible.**"

- **Victory over the Impossible:**

1. Financial
2. Relational
3. Emotional
4. Mental
5. Physical

**Victory over the impossible is found in Jesus**

- Sometimes victory is found in God removing the problem immediately
- Sometimes victory is found in God allowing the problem for a time
- Sometimes victory is found in God allowing the problem till He comes...

Paul prayed 3x for God to remove his messenger of Satan God allowed

**A. My Grace is sufficient**

**SUMMARY Nation Remain** to test Israel. Learn war by strongly urging them to turn to Him

**Our Mission in Judges as all Scripture? Find Jesus.**

**Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in **all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...** **32** And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

- **Finding Jesus in Judges Ch. 3**

1. Deliverance through Courage
2. Deliverance through Praise
3. Deliverance though the Word

## **II. Othniel Deliverance through Courage**

- Israel now dwelling with/taking from/giving to enemy
- Interacting with sin and things are fine...for now

7 So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord **their God**, and served the Baals and Asherahs. 8 Therefore the anger

of the Lord was hot against Israel, and **He sold them** into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim **eight years**.

Same Lord who bought them from Bondage...Sells them back to Bondage  
**For the next eight years served the Enemy**

- **Cycle:** Serving, Falling, Slaving, Crying...

**Judges 2:16 Nevertheless,** the Lord raised up judges [deliverers] who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

**Israel's has a new owner? His name is Cushan- Rishathaim** Lit "Twice wicked"

- **The devil is a cruel enemy:** Twice wicked

**Exodus 6:9** [In Egypt the served Pharaoh in...] **anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.**

**Psalms 25:19** [David's enemies] ...they hate me with **cruel hatred.**

**Psalms 74:20** [Cruel world] ... the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

**Proverbs 5:9** [Warning against sexual sin] [Don't] give your honor to others, And your years to the **cruel one...**

- We become slave to...what we compromise with

1. Addictions
2. Porn
3. Fear
4. Sexual Sin
5. Bitterness/unforgiveness

- Leaves us defeated and ashamed...

**Romans 6:20** ...when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

- Bondage for eight years...

9 When the children of Israel **cried out to the Lord**, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: **Othniel** the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The **Spirit of the Lord came upon him**, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.

- **Othniel**

1. Caleb's son-in-law: Took Canaanite city/won Caleb's daughter as bride
2. **Now the first Judge over Israel**

## Othniel represents the Deliverance through Courage

- **Othniel** heb. Lion of God

**Revelation 5:5** [John crying as no one to open Scroll. Elder speaks...] "Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

### Courage of Jesus the Lion of Judah Began with the Courage of Jesus the Lamb of God

- The courage to **relinquish His will**

**Matthew 26:39** "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- The courage **not to compromise**

**Isaiah 50:7** "For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have **set My face like a flint**, And I know that I will not be ashamed."

**Matthew 16:22** [I must go to the cross] Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; **this shall not happen** to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

**John 18:11** [Peter fights for Jesus] "Put your sword into the sheath. **Shall I not drink** the cup which My Father has given Me?"

- Courage not to compromise
- Courage **not to retaliate**

**Isaiah 53:2** [As a boy whose family was ridiculed] For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

**Luke 23:33** [Choosing to forgive rather than hatred] ...when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they do."

**Mark 15:29** [As a man on the cross held by love not nails] ...those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, <sup>30</sup> save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. <sup>32</sup> Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

- Courage not to compromise                      Setting His face to will of the Father
- Courage not to retaliate                         Repaying good for evil/forgiving
- **Courage to lay down his life...**

**John 19:30** ... He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

**John 15:13** [For His friends] Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life

for his friends.

**Romans 5:6** [For His enemies] For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ **died for the ungodly**. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **Deliverance through Courage**

- |                                 |                          |                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Courage not to compromise    | <b>Obey the Father</b>   | no matter what |
| 2. Courage not to retaliate     | <b>Trust the Father</b>  | no matter what |
| 3. Courage to lay down His life | <b>Please the Father</b> | no matter what |

**Othniel: The Spirit of the Lord came upon him** v10

**Zechariah 4:6** 'Not by [our] might nor by [our] power, but by My Spirit

- Jesus/Othniel sacrificed for their bride to give her a place. [I go to prepare a place] Rescue the people from a twice wicked enemy. [Jesus came to destroy work of devil]

**Romans 5:22** ...now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, **everlasting life**. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Courage on the cross]

**Summary Othniel** Lion of God. First Judge in Promised Land. Deliverance through Courage

11 So the land had **rest for forty years**. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

- Eight years of cruel bondage followed by...
- Forty years of rest and judge dies...

### **III. Ehud** Deliverance through Praise

12 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. 14 So the children of Israel **served Eglon** king of Moab **eighteen years**.

- God strengthens **the enemies** of His people: Moab/Ammon/Amalek
  1. **Israel defeated** as we lead **defeated lives** when we choose evil
  2. **Bondage 18 years** before finally crying out to the Lord

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. 16 Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh. 17 So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

- **Ehud**

1. Left-handed man. 10%
2. Sent to pay taxes to Eglon King of Moab
3. 15" double-edged sword

**17b...** (Now Eglon was a **very fat man.**) 18 And when [Ehud] had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute. 19 But he himself turned back from the **stone images** that were at Gilgal, and said, "I have a **secret message for you**, O king." He said, "Keep silence!" And all who attended him went out from him.

- **King Eglon:** Lit. Cow [very fat man]
- Sends everyone out waits for special gift from Ehud

20 So Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "**I have a message from God for you.**" So he arose from his seat. 21 Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into [Eglon's] belly. 22 Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out. 23 Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

- Message from God to Eglon King of Moab: **Your time is up**
- Eglon *did not expect* a weapon in Ehud's **left hand**

24 When he had gone out, Eglon's servants came to look, and to their surprise, the doors of the upper room were locked. So they said, "He is probably **attending to his needs** in the cool chamber." 25 So they waited till they were embarrassed, and still he had not opened the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened them. And there was their master, fallen dead on the floor. 26 But Ehud had escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone images and escaped to Seirah. 27 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. 29 And at that time they killed about ten thousand men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped. 30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the **land had rest for eighty years.**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Judge Ehud:** Lit **I will give thanks**

**Ehud represents Deliverance through Praise  
Praise rescues us from a Defeated Life**

- Enemy was surprised by Ehud; i.e. **Praise**

**Key to victory over a defeated life?  
Surprising our enemy by praising God at the least likely times**

- Praising God when things are tuff is a sacrifice to Him

**Jeremiah 33:11** "Praise the Lord of hosts, For the **Lord is good**, For **His mercy endures forever**"— and of those who will bring the **sacrifice of praise** into the house of the Lord. For I will cause the **captives of the land to return** [Freedom]

**Hebrews 13:15** ... let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

- Cure to a defeated/confused/worried life? Sacrifice of Praise

**Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Complaining and cursing lead to defeat
- Thanksgiving and Praise lead to peace...supernatural illogical peace

**War Lesson: A Defeated Life is overcome by Sacrificial Praise**

A sneak attack on the enemy by praising God when we least feel like it sinks that knife deep

**SUMMARY Ehud** I will give Thanks. Deliverance from a defeated life through Praise

- **18** Years of bondage
- **80** Years of rest

**Psalms 144:1** Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle...

**So far...**

1. **Othniel**: Deliverance through **Courage**
2. **Ehud**: Deliverance through **Praise**

## **IV. Shamgar Deliverance through the Word**

**31** After [Ehud] was **Shamgar** the son of Anath, who killed **six hundred** men of the Philistines with an **ox goad**; and he also delivered Israel.

- **Philistines now oppressing Israel...**

**Judges 5:6** "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The **highways were deserted**, And the travelers walked along the byways. 7 **Village life ceased**, it ceased in Israel..."

- **Normal Life for Israel ceased**: Streets deserted/people stayed inside
- **Shamgar raised up to Deliver**: lit **Sword** *mă'-khī-rä*.

**Shamgar represents deliverance through the Word of God**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any **two-edged** sword, piercing...

- **Sword:** The Word of God
  1. **Dissects** our hearts
  2. **Destroys** our enemies
- **Dissects:** Divides Truth from Deceit...Light from Darkness

God's Word shows us who we really are...Like listening to our voice on recording

1. **Living**            **Scarlet Thread** weaves through pages Scripture of Gen-Rev

The 66 books which we call the Bible constitute a highly integrated message system. What makes this so astonishing is the fact that they were penned by more than forty different people over a period of several thousand years! Yet we now discover that virtually every detail of the Biblical text evidences a highly skillful integrated design from cover to cover. In fact, every word, every place name, every detail was apparently placed there (in the original) deliberately as part of an overall intricate plan. What is even more astounding is that it can be demonstrated that the origin of this intricate design is from **outside of our dimension** of space and time. [Chuck Missler] **The Word of God is Living...**

2. **Powerful**        Life-giving/changing [KJV active] Power God to Salvation Rom 1
3. **Sharp**            Specific: Penned by all-knowing/all seeing God
4. **Piercing**        Penetrating: Holy Spirit searches/dissects our hearts

**Hebrews 4:12b...** even to the **division of soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

5. **Dividing soul and spirit/Dividing joint/marrow:** Reaches heart of inner man

**Hebrews 4:13...** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are **naked and open** to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Pronoun "His" sight. Jesus the **Living Word**

6. **Discerns our Thoughts/Our intent/Our motives:**

**Leaving us nowhere to run...but yet we still do**

**James 1:22** ...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man **observing his natural face** in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, **goes away**, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

**Q. What do we do when the Word reveals the dirt on our face? Sin in our life?**

- A. Walk/Run away
- A. **Wash our face:** Repent/ask forgiveness/ turn spicket of Living Water see change

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**The Word of God:** Sword of the Spirit is profitable to our lives for...

- **Doctrine**        Useful for Teaching what is right/wrong
- **Reproof**        Reveal the Wrong



- **Correct**      Reveal the Right

**Made complete/fully ready for every good work  
To live lives to fullest without weight of sin dragging us down**

- Sword of God dissects      Who we really are
- **Sword of God divides**      **Wheat from Chaff...**

**Matthew 10:34** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace **but a sword**. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

- Word/Sword of God Dissects
- **Word of God also Destroys...our enemy**

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the **...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**

**Word of God:** Greatest weapon against our Spiritual Enemy

- **Matthew 4:** Jesus our example of wielding the Sword...
  1. **Satan:** Feed your flesh      **Word:** Be sustained by God's Word
  2. **Satan:** Test God      **Word:** Do not tempt God with foolishness
  3. **Satan:** Worship idols      **Word:** Worship God only

**Matthew 4:11** Then [after the sword pierced] **the devil left Him**

- **Shamgar the Sword of God**
  1. Son of **Anath**; lit. "to answer"
  2. **Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad...**

A wooden tool, approximately eight feet long, fitted with an iron spike or point at one end, which was used to spur oxen as they pulled a plow or cart. It often had an iron scraper at the non-pointed end to clear clods of earth from the plowshare when it became weighed down.

Shamgar saw enemy coming/looked around/found **no other weapon than the ox goad**

- If Satan only had one weapon to choose it would be **Discouragement**
- If we only have one weapon to choose from it should be the **Word of God....**

**Isaiah 54:17** **No weapon** formed against you shall prosper

- **Shamgar** [Sword] son of Anath [Answer] kills 600 Philistines with just a Goad

**Goads likened to the Word of God in Scripture...**

**Ecclesiastes 12:10** The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—**words of truth**. 11 The words of the **wise are like goads**, and the words of scholars are like **well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd**.

- **Words of God:** Well-driven nails [**goads**] given by one Shepherd
- **Paul kicked against goads;** i.e. Kicked against Word of God before surrendering

**Acts 26:14** [Jesus to Saul] 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to

## kick against the goads.' ...

- If we have a problem with the Word of God the problem is not with the Word  
It doesn't matter what our friends or enemies say...or even what we feel or think...

### **What matters is what does God say in His infallible Word**

- **What does the Word of God say about things? About you and me?**
  1. Sinner from birth in desperate need of a Savior
  2. We are precious in His sight: Treasure/Pearl of Great Price
  3. God desires to save you: Went so far as to send His Son to die for your sin
  4. God wants you to have victory/we can have victory in every area of life
  5. God wants you to live an exciting worry-free abundant life
- Everything we need for victory/joy in this life is found in God's written Word...

## **2 Peter 1:3 ...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him.**

- **About God** One God revealed in 3 Persons. Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- **About Salvation** By grace alone though faith alone
- **About Relationships** Don't be unequally yoked
- **About Marriage** God hates divorce. Husbands love/Wives respect
- **About Religion** Jesus the only way to Father...not any religion
- **About Creation** In the beginning God said...
- **About the Future** Bright for those who know Jesus
- **About...**

**SUMMARY Shamgar** the Sword: Deliverance through the Word of God. 600 Philistines Killed by the Shamgar [Sword] son of Anath [Answer] with a Goad [Word of God]