



THE JUDGE of Judges

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Yes & No

1. I really like spy books or movies.
2. Most likely, there is at least one spy in this room.
3. When we refuse God's blessings, He gives them to our enemies.
4. When given a choice, God prefers to work with handicapped people.
5. God empowers our enemies to hurt us when we turn our backs on Him.

Dive Deeper:

† When you were a younger Christian, what were you taught about how God responds when you don't do what He wants? In other words, does He punish you, turn His back on you, send trouble your way, or even let Satan bring bad things into your life...or something else?

» **READ Judges 3:12-30** (see text on the screen)

‡ **12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight, and the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil.**

† What was the "evil" that they did again? (see vs. 19 & 26: [מִלִּיִּםפ - pēsîlîm] Elsewhere in the Old Testament it always denotes sculpted pagan cult images.)

† **King Eglon** - eglôn, a diminutive form of ēgel, "bull, calf," but which also recalls the term āgôl, "round, rotund."

† **Moab** - relatives of the Israelites, having descended from Abraham's nephew Lot (Gen 19:36-37).

Δ **Ehud** - Ehud (ēhûd) consists of two elements, ēy and hûd, which together denote "Where is the splendor, majesty?" Like Ichabod (îkâbôd, "Where is the glory?") in 1 Sam 4:21, this name reflects the despondency of the times.

† **A Left-Handed Benjamite** - A contradiction & social handicap. The name "Benjamin" means "son of the right hand," that is, "right-handed." But he is left-handed!

- » When the Israelites cry out, after 18 years of pain, God responds by raising up only one of them: Ehud, a left-paw in a world of righties.
- «God seems to raise up a top-secret spy here. Nobody seems to know Ehud's plans. No one is there to back him up, to be his wingman, to help him in or out. What does it say about God that He would raise up only one man, instead of raising up ALL of the men of Israel? Does He still work that way today?

NOTES...

» Scripture says that the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil. What does that mean? Does God help your enemies sometimes, and does he help them to have control over you when you don't do what He wants? How does He do this, and why do you think He works in this fashion?

† **Ehud's deed & escape** - Everything goes down the drain.

Δ 28 "Follow me," he said, "for the Lord has given you victory over Moab your enemy." So they followed him. And the Israelites took control of the shallow crossings of the Jordan River across from Moab, preventing anyone from crossing.

‡ After assassinating the King of Moab, Ehud calls the men to arms. How is this different from how God typically works? How is this the same? Does God prefer to work with individuals or with groups?

My Prayers This Week...

1. How willing am I to be the only one willing to stand for God?
2. How have I given "the enemy" control of my life?
3. How does this section of Scripture help me see more of God's character?