

Life Lesson 46  
*Ehud and Shamgar*  
Text: Judges 3

Introduction

Those Israelites were certainly slow learners! As soon as Joshua and the elders who served with him died they turned from God and sinned. God sent a terrible punishment so that they would straighten up and live the way they should. They repented and God sent Othniel to deliver them.

The Story

As soon as Othniel died, they started to worship idols again. The very same thing happened all over again. God allowed the Moabites to conquer the land and the Israelites again were slaves in their own country. Eglon, king of the Moabites, ruled the land and greatly oppressed God's people.

The Israelites repented, just as they had before. They cried to God for forgiveness. This time, though, they served the Moabites for 18 years before God sent a deliverer. The last time they were in bondage for only eight years. When we don't learn our lesson God sends a greater punishment the next time. The Israelites found that out the hard way!

God did hear and answer their cry. He sent the second judge, Ehud, to deliver His people.

Ehud came to the palace of King Eglon with a present from the tribes of Israel. He also brought a surprise for him, one King Eglon wasn't going to like.

After Ehud delivered the present, he said, "I have a secret errand with you."

"Keep silent," King Eglon told him. He sent the other servants away, then said, "Now, what do you want to tell me?"

King Eglon wasn't worried about Ehud, because Ehud had just brought him a present. Besides, the Bible says that Ehud was "Shut up in his right hand." That might just have meant that he was left-handed. It might have meant that he had a crippled right hand. At any rate, King Eglon wasn't afraid to be left alone with him.

"I have a message to you from God," Ehud said.

He reached with his left hand and grabbed the knife he had strapped to his right thigh. Quickly he plunged the dagger into King Eglon.

This part is pretty gross, but it's in the Bible, so we'll include it in our story. King Eglon was a big, fat man. He was so fat that when Ehud stuck the dagger into him, it went all the way in, handle and all, so that Ehud couldn't even pull it out.

Ehud left the room by the porch, locking the doors after him.

When King Eglon's servants came to check on him, they found the door locked.

"I guess the king is taking a nap or something," they said. "We'll not disturb him."

After a while, though, they began to get worried. "Maybe we ought to do something about this," they said.

They broke down the door and found him dead.

By that time, though, Ehud was long gone. The Moabites were without a leader and they couldn't stand against the Israelite army. Ehud led the children of Israel to a great victory.

The land had rest for eight years, except for a part of the land that the Philistines attacked. The third judge, Shamgar, delivered the children of Israel from the Philistines. He killed 600 of them himself with an oxgoad.

After Ehud died, the people once again turned from God and began worshiping idols. How foolish they were! Again they went through the circle we see repeated all the way through the book of Judges. Sin-suffering-supplication-salvation. Then they started all over again.

### The Life Lesson

I hope you will learn a lesson from the foolish Israelites. Serve the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul. Don't let anything take God's place in your heart. Sin always leads to sorrow, so don't do it!

## Review Questions

Who was the first judge of Israel?

*Othniel*

Who was the second judge?

*Ehud*

Who was the third judge?

*Shamgar*

What nation oppressed Israel after Othniel died?

*The Moabites*

Who was the Moabite king?

*King Eglon*

What did King Eglon look like?

*He was big and fat.*

Why was King Eglon not worried about meeting with Ehud?

*Ehud was Ashut up in his right hand. @ Maybe left-handed, maybe crippled in his right hand.*

What did Ehud say he had for Eglon?

*AI have a message for you from God. @*

What was the Amessage@ from God?

*A dagger in the stomach.*