

Judges 3:12-31 A Time for Change

1/4/09 - The Exchange

- I. The transitional period
 - A. Review the Judges Shuffle. Sin, servitude, supplication, salvation...
 - B. 40 years of peace
 - 1. Some genuinely lived it.
 - 2. Some did it until the pressure was off then were indifferent. "God, if you get us out of this, I will..."
 - 3. Some enjoyed the freedom that was the result of the repentance of others, but never really embraced it.
 - C. A generation rose to power that bailed on the Lord.
 - 1. A change, a shift occurred. Not just a light-switch event.
 - 2. Somewhere in all this a boy named Ehud "I will give thanks" was born. Probably to Godly parents.
 - 3. He rose to some kind of position of prominence as a leader, a representative.
- II. 3:12-30 Ehud
 - A. 3:12-13 Sin
 - 1. What was the evil? Not specified, but we can infer they bailed on God's ways again.
 - 2. Who strengthened?
 - 3. Review the origins of Moab, Ammon, and Amalek.
 - 4. City of Palms - Jericho. The city the Lord had given them, the Lord took back.
 - 5. Would have been easy to blame someone else for this. The reality is that God could have used anyone to accomplish the same thing because it was their sin that brought this upon them.
 - 6. When we experience the bad stuff we need to examine ourselves and ask God to examine us before blaming someone else. Psalm 7:1-5.
 - B. 3:14 Servitude
 - 1. 18 years of servitude. 2009-1991.
 - 2. Being forced to pay tribute to foreign countries. Taxes to Canada?
 - 3. Not having the freedom you thought you'd have apart from the Lord. Romans 6. (don't need to turn, referenced last week)
 - C. 3:15 Supplication
 - 1. cried out - Psalm 78:34-35.
 - 2. Talk about the left-handed thing.
 - 3. Describe the tribute, the group, and how it probably grated on Ehud time after time after time.
 - 4. It takes a recognition of the need for change, plus a recognition for what needs to change, plus a recognition that the change need to begin in and with you. And then do it. My comfort zone story.
 - 5. Apply to individual lives and to our church.
 - 6. At some point Ehud decided to take action and put a plan into place. Detail aren't given, but can be inferred.

- D. 3:16-30 Salvation
 - 1. 3:16 Popeye syndrome. "That's all I can stand..." That's what it takes. God is raising you up! God in the power of His Spirit!
 - 2. 3:19 Highlight the images, how they would have bugged him every trip.
 - a) When you repeatedly encounter someone or something that is contrary to God, don't let it discourage you, don't let it numb you, allow it to drive you.
 - b) Like a file grinding away the crud until there is something useful.
 - 3. 3:27 When the Lord wants to do something He doesn't work in just one, but many. But He often needs just one to start the fire.
- III. 3:31 Shamgar - Farming tools used by farmers became martial arts weapons.