Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent
10/18/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

From Settled People to Judges

- **10/4: Joshua 24:18 – 27**

After the conquest of Canaan, the people agree to the Palestinian/Land Covenant where they are promised to prosper in the Land IF they stay faithful to God despite Joshua's misgivings

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Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

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- **10/11: Judges 2:6 – 15**

After Joshua and the leaders of his time passed away, the people forgot their promise to keep the Land Covenant, resulting to ongoing conflicts with their neighbors

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

- The period of Judges spans over 400 years from 1375 BC to 1050 BC.
- Judges function as rulers to settle disputes, to military deliverers of the people from their sinful ways

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

- There are 7 recorded cycles of sin and recovery in the Book of Judges where the people did "what was right in their own eyes" (e.g. Judges 21:25)

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

- Judges can be divided into 2 groups – Major and Minor, with 2 not being mentioned in the Book of Judges, but quoted as being Judges nonetheless

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

MAJOR JUDGES:

- Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)
- Ehud (Judges 3:12-30)
- Deborah (Judges 4-5)
- Gideon (Judges 6:8)
- Jephthah (Judges 10:6 – 12:7)
- Samson (Judges 13-16)

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

MINOR JUDGES:

- Shamgar (Judges 3:31)
- Tola (Judges 10:1-2)
- Jair (Judges 10:3-5)
- Ibzan (Judges 12:8-10)
- Elon (Judges 12:11-12)
- Abdon (Judges 12:13-15)

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JUDGES OF THE BIBLE

Exceptions:

- Abimelech (Judges 9) is a son of Gideon, but he did evil works that led to civil war in Israel. His reign lasted 3 years
- The high priest Eli is mentioned as a judge (1 Samuel 4:18)
- Samuel also judged Israel (1 Samuel 7:15)

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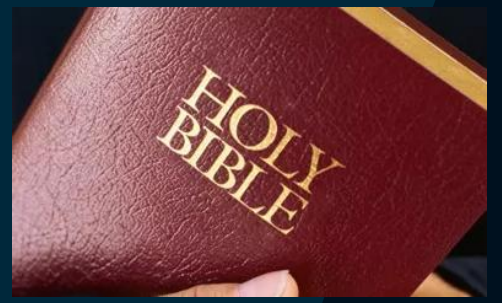
Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

From Settled People to Judges

An Unlikely Deliverer

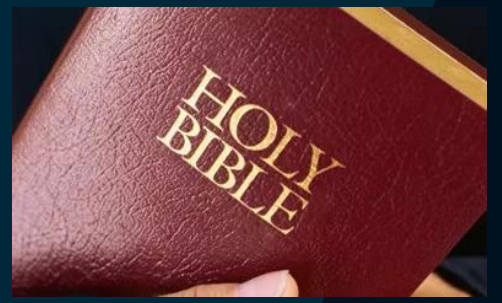
Judges 3:15 – 23, 30



*Context Text

JUDGES 3:12 (NKJV)

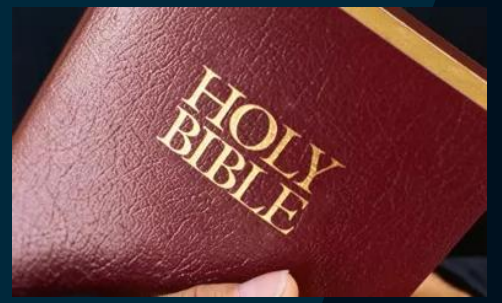
12 And the children of Israel again
did evil in the sight of the Lord. So
the Lord strengthened Eglon king of
Moab against Israel, because they
had done evil in the sight of the
Lord.



*Context Text

JUDGES 3:13 – 14 (NKJV)

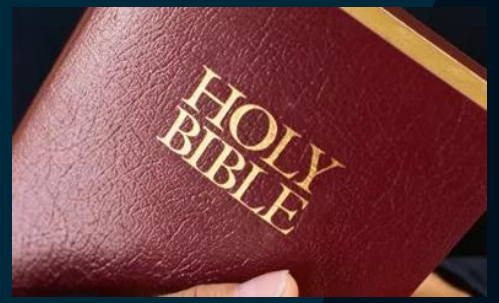
13 Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and [d]defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.
14 So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:15 (NKJV)

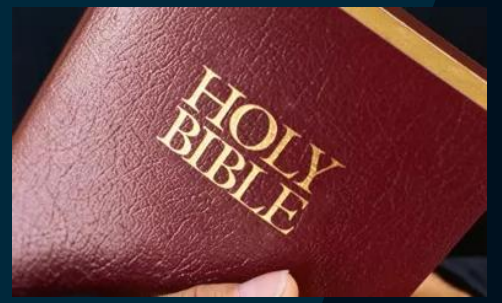
15 But when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:16 (NKJV)

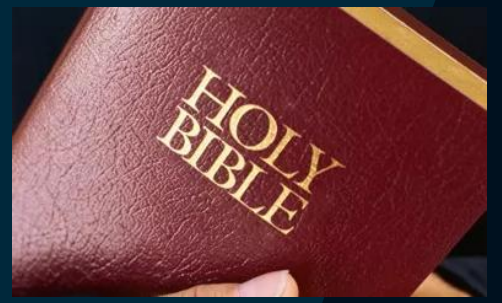
16 Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:17 - 18 (NKJV)

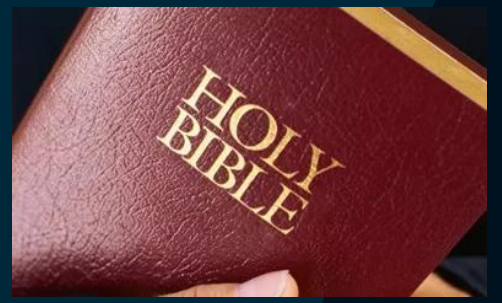
17 So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.) 18 And when he had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:19 (NKJV)

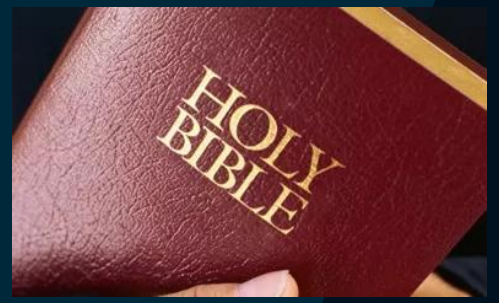
19 But he himself turned back from
the [a]stone images that were at
Gilgal, and said, “I have a secret
message for you, O king.”
He said, “Keep silence!” And all who
attended him went out from him.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:20 (NKJV)

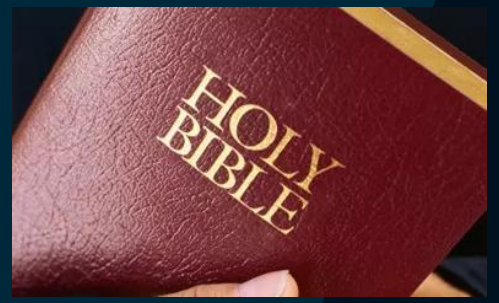
20 So Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." So he arose from his seat.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:21 (NKJV)

21 Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.



Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:22 (NKJV)

22 Even the [b]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.

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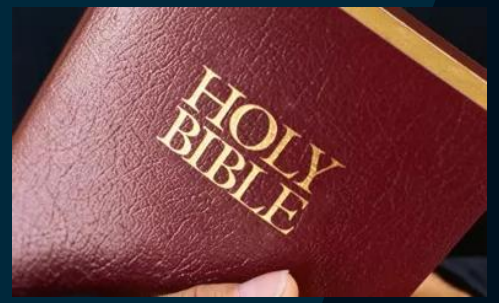

Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:23 (NKJV)

23 Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

Commentary: Unexpected Attack

- In Ehud, God used unconventional methods that lead to the defeat of the Moabites
- First, the attack came AFTER presenting tribute to King Eglon. Ehud returns in a sort of 'Columbo' fashion when the king's defenses were down

Commentary: Unexpected Attack

- Second, the attack occurred in private after Eglon cleared his servants from the room
- Third, since Ehud was left-handed, he carried no weapon on his right side nor was checked on his left side any weapon which was common

LEFT-HANDED

RIGHT-HANDED

Commentary: Unexpected Attack

- Not only was Ehud not checked for a weapon carried on left hip, he hid his sword under his right thigh – the most unlikely place to hide a weapon.
- Only 10-12% of humans are left-handed, so using ignorance of the rarity created an opening for Ehud

Commentary: Unexpected Attack

- Of course, this would not happen today as anyone trying to see a high official would be fully checked head-to-toe for any weapons or contraband, and I'm sure after hearing this story, no one took routine for granted anymore

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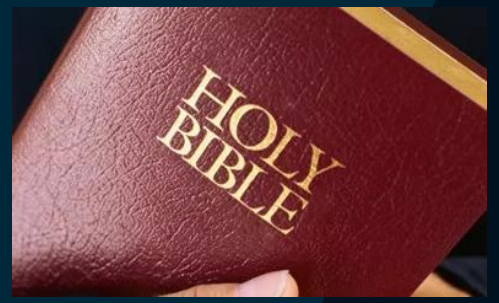

Lesson Text

JUDGES 3:30 (NKJV)

30 So Moab was subdued that day
under the hand of Israel. And the
land had rest for eighty years.

Commentary: Unconventional Deliverance

- God has used means great and small to deliver His people – from large miliary campaigns to espionage and assistance from unlikely sources – e.g. Rahab hiding the spies
- Why He choose such means we cannot know, but we trust God for a righteous outcome by any means necessary

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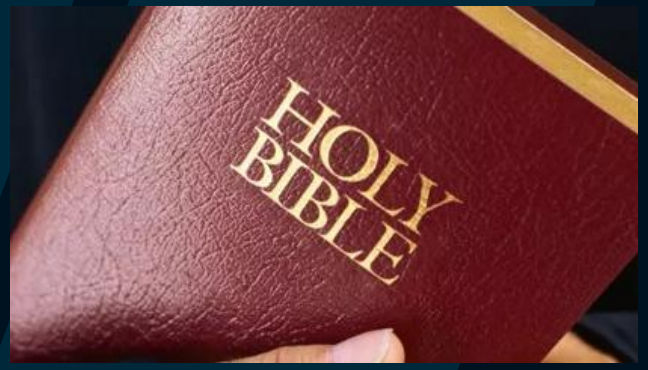
Scripture References



Ezekiel 18

One will no longer be judged by their ancestors, but by their own works

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

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Church School Benediction

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN