



Persecution & A Left-Handed Deliverer:

Judges 1 - 3

Lesson 51 Visuals

- **As time passed after the death of Joshua, the Israelites disobeyed God and stopped driving out the other nations like God commanded them to do.**
- **God had told the Israelites to tear down altars of idol worship; but they did not obey.**
- **Because they disobeyed the Lord and did not tear down the altars of idol worship, God said He will not drive out the people of other nations living in their land.**
- **The Israelites wept loudly when God said He would leave the other nations in the land and it would lead to lots of trouble for the Israelites.**
- **The Israelites were supposed to teach their children to fear the Lord and to know and obey God's instructions.**



- The generation after Joshua did not teach their children these things.
- God told the Israelites not to marry people from the other nations who worshipped idols and false gods; but the Israelites disobeyed that command.
- God did not want them to marry them because He knew they would be led into idol worship. And that is exactly what happened. The Israelites turned away from worshiping the One True God and began worshipping idols and false gods.
- The Lord was angry with the Israelites and removed His protection. Then other nations came in and stole their food and valuables. They oppressed and persecuted them.
- The Israelites cried out to the Lord for help and the Lord heard their prayer.
- The Lord raised up Othniel as the first judge over Israel who delivered the Israelites.



- **The Israelites obeyed God while Othniel was alive but after Othniel died, they turned away from the Lord and worshipped idols and false gods.**
- **Because the Israelites did evil, the Lord gave the King of Moab power over the nation of Israel.**
- **The name of Moab's king was Eglon. Judges chapter 3 describes King Eglon as a very fat man. (It is not nice to call someone fat; but the Bible tells us that because we need to know to understand the rest of the story.)**
- **After suffering for 18 years under King Eglon's cruel persecution, the Israelites finally cried out to the Lord for help.**
- **The Lord God heard their cry for help.**
- **The Lord raised up Ehud, the left-handed, to save Israel from King Eglon.**



- **Ehud was able to surprise the king by using his left hand to draw a sword from his right thigh.**
- **After Ehud killed the cruel King Eglon, Ehud left and locked the door behind him. Eglon's servants thought King Eglon was going to the bathroom.**
- **Ehud had time to get away and gather the Israelites. The LORD God was with Ehud and the Israelites and gave them victory of Moab.**
- **Othniel was the first judge over Israel; and Ehud was the second judge over Israel. Shamgar was the third judge over Israel.**
- **The Israelites returned to evil ways even worse than their parents after each Israelite judge died.**
- **God left the nations in the land to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the Lord's commands.**