

07-Judges-04-Transcript

greetings brethren just uh
testing the sound if you can hear me i'm
just on the cgi.churchonline.org
so i see rey rj
hurry good evening everybody if you can
marian sister with love
rick4 chris if you can just confirm
please that uh you can hear me
we're just about to get started
from what i can see the sound looks good
it looks good on my end
just want to confirm that you can hear
me on your end
sound is good thanks so much beautiful
okay we'll start in just about two
minutes
great thanks murray
okay thanks dawn running yeah it's the
it's the computer fan
we'll see what we can do about that in
the future
[Music]
well
well good evening brethren we're up to
judges chapter
three thank you so much for joining us
today if this is your first time joining
us
uh welcome we look forward to you catch
digital network but the best way is just
to download our app on the kindle store
the google store as well as the apple
store
the app store just look for the cgi
digital network app
and all of our studies are there in the
archive we're up to judges chapter three
let's begin with a word of prayer and we
can get
straight into tonight's study our
heavenly father we
pause before starting to give you thanks

and praise you
to thank you father for this feast of
weeks this festival of weeks as we count
towards pentecost
we just praise you father for the the
mighty lessons that we learn
as we rehearse these holy days and come
to understand your plan
much more closely we also thank you
father that we can
study your word line by line and again
come to understand your plan
much more minutely much more carefully
and that can lead to a greater
conviction father as we face such
time of uncertainty we can stand on the
solid rock
which is christ we praise you lord we
thank you and we pray
in his name amen so uh brethren we are
counting towards the feast of pentecost
and celebrating the feast of weeks
i hope that you were able to join us on
sabbath
when we had pastor george romicon
speaking from the uk
and just gave an amazing and very
profound message on the feast of weeks
and again if you missed that
please check out our archives for the
sabbath service
so we are now up to judges chapter 3.
and what i want to do as we as we head
into judges chapter 3
is just go back a little bit to pick up
the tail end
of chapter uh just so that we have the
context
as we work into judges chapter three so
let's let's do that
uh we'll go ahead and begin
in uh just the tail end of judges two
and let me just quickly get back to the
top here

uh we'll pick up from verse 18 and let me just make sure that we can see that maybe just a little bit more there we go so uh judges 2 and verse 18 and when the lord raised up raised them up judges and these judges are not like you know the way we would think of a judge sitting in a courtroom and passing sentence really a better word would be saviors that these are many saviors these are people that uh they have unique characteristics that god is able to leverage their their natural ability combine it with a supernatural ability in order to save israel from her trouble so think of the judges as many saviors and when the lord raised them up judges or many saviors then the lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge that was the purpose of the judge was to throw off the shackles of oppression from israel's enemies and so he would raise up this judge and he would be with them all the days of that judge and he says deliver them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge for it repented the lord because of their groanings by reason of them that oppress them and vex them so god is being faithful to his covenant we covered this last week he's being faithful to his covenant they're the ones who are being unfaithful because they are unfaithful to the covenant that doesn't break the covenant

it just means that instead of exercising
these terms and conditions
that he now god has to pivot and
exercise these instead
that he if you do these things here's
how i'll bless you
but if you do these things here's how
i'll curse you so okay you're gonna do
the things for curses
god being faithful to his word he's
spoken it he's faithful to it
he then does the cursings but he is in
covenant
love with israel he loves israel israel
has his chosen bride he loves her
and even though he is punishing her
it repents in me when he hears her
crying out
then he has mercy upon her and he raises
up a judge
to relieve her of the suffering he
doesn't throw her away
he stays with her that oppressed invest
them
and it came to pass when the judge was
dead
so the judge has this ability to keep
the oppression away
but then when the judge was dead that
they returned
and corrupted themselves oh more
so this is this is sort of the the um
the trailer
this is a movie we're watching uh viewer
discretion is advised
but this is the trailer and it just
basically so we get a sense of what the
movie is going to be like
that when the judge was dead that they
returned
and corrupted themselves more than their
fathers
in following other gods to serve them
and to bow down unto them they ceased

not
from their own doings nor from their
stubborn way
wow you know when we read where like
chapter two of the book of judges so
we've come out of um
the the torah and then we read joshua
and we read judges we're in chapter two
of judges like i'm done
like this this doesn't make any sense at
all let's get rid of these people let's
start over
like let's uh let's throw these people
away and let's go find the arabs
and maybe work with them because this
this doesn't make any sense
and that's what the quran would have us
believe that god has thrown these people
away
and now he's chosen the arabs as a
special people but clearly when we and
the reason is because the
people are just so so rebellious but
what we're seeing here is
yep the people are rebellious that is
their nature
they are stubborn and rebellious and
they will not cease from their own
doings
but god will not cease from the promise
of his covenant
so all of this wickedness
notwithstanding
god's covenant stands that's what we see
here
so he says here and the anger of the
lord
was hot against israel
and he said because that this people has
transgressed my covenant
which i commanded their fathers they've
transgressed the covenant
which i commanded their fathers and have
not hearkened unto my voice

then what i'll throw them away i will
also i also will not henceforth
drive out any from before
them of the nations which joshua left
when he died okay so these people are so
rebellious that when god saves them
they just return to their rebellion
they're wicked people
because they break they transgress the
covenant does god throw them away
no he doesn't what does he do he doesn't
drive out the nations that was the
agreement
you're going to go into the land and i
will go before you
and even though you're the smallest of
nations don't worry about that look what
i did in bringing you out of egypt so
don't just look back to what i did the
miracle of coming out of egypt that's
how you were established as a nation
look how powerful pharaoh was i brought
them down no problem now go into the
land
and even though these people are
mightier than you and you're the
smallest of nations
this is not a problem i'm gonna go
before you and i'm gonna take down these
nations
but now because you've transgressed the
covenant i'm not gonna throw you away
i'm not going to violate the covenant
instead what i'm going to do
is i'm not going to drive the people out
of the land you're now going to have to
contend
these are chilling words by the way that
these nations that are mightier than
israel
if god doesn't drive them out of the
land that means
slavery that means starvation that means
rape that means child molestation that

means
poverty this is a horrible verse 21 is
chilling
for what it means for this nation that
was chosen by god
i also will not henceforth drive out any
from before them
of the nations which joshua left when he
died
that through them that is through these
gentile nations i may prove israel
whether they will keep the way of the
lord to walk therein
as their fathers did keep it or not
therefore the lord left those nations
without driving them out hastily neither
delivered he them
into the hand of joshua so because of
the people's rebellion really it should
have been joshua
moses said to joshua you know i can't
take the people into the promised land
you're going to take them in and the
expectation was that he'll go
in and uh they'll just clear out the
land
and under joshua's reign joshua's
leadership
that the land would then be established
as holy land and these people would be
established as a holy people
but the people were rebellious the
people were stubborn
the people were not wholehearted and so
god says you know what
i'm not going to drive out these nations
so now that's the context
for joshua three and then still in these
first few verses of chapter three we're
still into the introductory material
before we actually get into the careers
and the lives and the conquests
of the judges so judges 3 and verse 1.
now these are the nations

which the lord left so which nations did
the lord leave
and and why did he leave them so he's
going to tell us the nations and why
they were left
now these are the nations which the lord
left to prove
israel by them even as many of
israel as had not known all the wars of
canaan
canaan so these are people these are the
next generation now
that they didn't know the wars it's like
us today you know
on remembrance day you know years ago
go go back a couple of decades everybody
wore a poppy
it was just such an astonishment of the
sacrifice that was made
the the price that was paid for us in
the western world
to have freedom everybody wore a poppy
but then generations go by and these
things are not taught and we don't teach
history and we don't remind people
and now we have a generation that
remembrance day comes not only do they
not wear a poppy
it's like that's racist you shouldn't
wear a poppy
let's let's celebrate the the other side
you know let's give honor to the
the nazis this is this is what happens
when we don't teach and remind people of
the price that was paid
and i really feel sorry for the veterans
who fought in world war
ii some of them are still alive and you
see them as selling poppies and people
just walk past them
ignore them this is what happens
so god now is going to take this
generation that doesn't know war
and he's going to teach them war and

through this process
they're going to learn how to fight
because they have to do that to clear
the land
and god is also going to see what's in
their heart
are they really going to stick to the
covenant or not
now the nations let's go to deuteronomy
7 go back to the torah
so what did moises write and the lord
your god
will put out those nations before you
little by little
you may not destroy them at once lest
the beasts of the field
increase upon you so god had a plan
you're going to go in and we're going to
just
sequentially move these nations out and
get rid of them because if you get rid
of them all at once you'll be
overwhelmed by the wild beasts of the
field
so so these nations were to be removed
judges three verse two
he says only that the generations of the
children of israel might
know to teach them war
at the least such as before knew nothing
thereof
so god wants them they their whole idea
is for them to go in and
conquer these nations god will go before
them and god will
make sure that they're victorious if
they're faithful
but they have to it's not just you know
sit back and let let god do it all
you know it's like christians today oh
jesus did everything
i'm saved i don't have to do any there's
no battle here
i just have to sit back and i accept the

lord i love the lord and he did it all
for me
the finished work of christ uh no we
have work to do
we have a battle to fight and god this
isn't just as it was with these p
these uh ancient israelites they had to
fight to gain ground
and just as we go through the days of
unleavened bread and now this feast of
weeks as we count towards pentecost
we have to fight there's a spiritual
fight a resistance
to gain ground so they they are to learn
war now he says namely here are the
nations now
namely five lords of the philistines
and all the canaanites all of them
and the sidonians and the hivites that
dwelt
in mount lebanon from
mount baal hermon unto the entering inn
of hamath so you know today these are
all muslim nations
and it's the same these are the same
nations that hate israel
both judah the people we call israel
today plus the israelite nations
same people but but it's very clear
these these are enemies of of israel and
they're left there
and they're left there verse 4 and they
were to prove
israel by them to know whether they
would hearken
unto the commandments of the lord which
he commanded their fathers
by the hand of moses in other words the
torah so they've got the torah
and now are they going to follow what's
prescribed in the torah
and are they going to learn war and be
courageous and take the land
and not compromise or are they going to

play with the torah
and compromise with the torah the way
christians do today
and the children of israel dwelt
this is this is like astonishing when we
come out of the torah
and then we read now we're in we're just
into the early history of israel
and we read here in verse 5 i mean mooses
is probably turning in his grave
and the children of israel dwelt among
the canaanites
the hittites and these are these are
filthy people you look at the land the
canaan
how they got their start and the filthy
deeds of their father
and then the the sexual immorality in
which they were born
and that creates a culture of sexual
immorality there's no standard
uh the hittites and the amorites and the
parasites the hivites
these are all you know you look at a lot
the amorites and the moabites they're
they're
they're born of incest so again their
mothers
have no sexual standards and so the
cultures that come out of these people
are depraved they're they're a depraved
people
with depraved culture and that's why god
just had it with them and said okay i'm
gonna move israel and just
wipe these people out they can come up
in the resurrection where they'll have a
clean
clean shot but they're too depraved
now look at these nations that are
listed here and go let's go back to the
torah
again we read deuteronomy 7 so he says
in verse 1

when the lord your god shall bring you
into the land where you go to possess it
and has cast out god is going to do this
he will cast out many nations before you
which nations the hittites the
gurgashites the amorites the canaanites
the perizzites the hivites and the
jebusites
seven nations so there were seven
nations to be cast out
and now god is saying i'm gonna leave
five of them five of these very nations
that you were supposed to go in and you
were supposed to drive them out but
god would go before you they're more
mighty or they're mightier nations than
you
god would go before you and he would
drive out these nations for you
but you were disobedient so now god is
leaving
five of these nations that should have
been driven out that are filthy nations
that that are deplorable that are
despicable that are full of debauchery
they're staying in place and and they're
greater and mightier than you
so god knows that these are mightier
nations but remember you came out of
egypt
and remember what god did to pharaoh now
go forward
and take down these nations but they
didn't do it
and we saw as we uh read the opening of
judges that they just
they they were not successful they dwelt
with these people
and when the lord your god shall deliver
them before you so we're still in the
door
the torah this is the instruction that
moses wrote
that when the lord your god shall

deliver them
before you god is going to do it and
shall smite them they're mightier than
you god will do it
and shall smite them and utterly destroy
them
there's not to be a tr this these people
are too uh
despicable to be left in the mix
god wants to establish a holy nation so
that the world has a chance
that the world can learn the ways of
jehovah and not the ways of satan
but if we're going to mix the people of
satan with the people of god
then there's no chance there's going to
be just corruption
throughout the throughout the land so
he'll deliver them before you
you shall smite them and utterly destroy
them that's your job
it's like unleavened bread we have to
utterly remove sin from our lives
that's our job we don't just sit back
and say yeah jesus did it all
jesus did it all not nothing to do here
listen to this you shall make
no covenant with them under no
circumstances do you get into any
agreements with them
make no covenant with them nor show
mercy unto them
you know some people think they're more
righteous than god i think you know
we're going to go into the land here
but um you know they deserve a chance
and you know we have to give them a
space and you know they're just like us
and we're all the same and
you know after all no culture is better
than another culture and
and all all people are the same no god
says
don't make any agreement with them and

show them no mercy
their culture is inferior
let me say it again god says their
culture is inferior
and and we cannot have it in the holy
land because the holy land is to be a
beacon
to the rest of the world so that people
can come out of their darkness
so don't make any covenant with them
don't show them any mercy
neither shall you make marriages with
them don't do this
no agreements no marriages your daughter
you shall not give unto his son
nor his daughter shall you take
unto your son there'll be no marriages
with these people
so that's the context that's the
instruction from moses let's see how we
do
judges three and verse six and they took
their daughters to be their wives
what's wrong with god's people why do we
read
the word of god and then we have a
better idea
why do we read the plain text and then
we have our own ideas and our ideas are
superior because you know god is kind of
backwards
we're very sophisticated we're more
merciful we have better ideas
so they're told do not marry these
people
they go into the land and what do they
do they marry the people
and they took their daughters to be
their wives and gave
their daughters to be their sons to
their sons
they gave their daughters to be there to
to their sons to be their sons
that's what they're doing today uh they

gave their daughters to their sons
and served their gods can you imagine
this
the virgins of israel being given to the
pagans
to bow down and worship the pagan gods
and to be involved in the debauchery of
the pagan gods
can you imagine how furious how hot with
anger
god is or god was with these people
and the children of israel what did the
children of israel do
the children of israel did evil
but listen it's not that they did evil
they did evil in the sight of the lord
you know another way of writing this
i could write this you know um we could
write this another way and we believe it
was samuel who wrote this
the children of israel did what was
right
in their own eyes the children of israel
felt special
and they felt very righteous and they
felt like they were doing very good
things
that's what we could have written but
we're not writing it from the
perspective of the children of israel we
don't really care what the children of
israel thought
what we want to know is what did god
think so while the children of israel
think they're doing right
what's written here in judges is that
they were doing
evil in the sight of the lord
so begs the question we as christians
is it possible i'm just asking the
question based on the text
is it possible for us to be making
decisions
is it possible for us to be doing things

that violate the text
it violates the text but we have our own
ideas
and we think we're doing right but god
is looking and saying this is evil this
is 11.
the children of israel did evil in the
sight of the lord
and forgot the lord their god and served
ba'alim
and the groves this is what they were to
clear these people out
but they left them in place and now look
they're mixing they're being very
sophisticated you know we get along with
our neighbors it's all very good why
don't you take my daughter i'll take
your daughter we'll
we'll get along therefore
the anger of the lord was hot against
israel
that's a chilling verse that you know we
wouldn't want it to be said
therefore the anger of the lord was hot
against the church
but if we are no different than our
spiritual forefathers
why wouldn't it be why wouldn't it be
you know the scripture
there's a scripture that says you know
woe unto you who desire the day of the
lord
it's a day of darkness so we have to
take this seriously and
have this sort of passover mentality of
making sure we're putting the blood on
the doorposts
and not doing it in vain so that the
wrath of god can pass over
therefore the anger of the lord was hot
against israel
and he sold them into the hand of
kushan rishath
king listen to this he's the king

of mesopotamia
or mesopotamia now a couple of things
here this
name kushan rishathaim
it means the king of double wicket or
the kushite of double wickedness
so so clearly this was a hebrew name
that they gave him it's not his real
name but it's their name of him
how much they suffered of him he's the
the cushite
uh probably ethiopian of double
wickedness
and notice he's the king of mesopotamia
and the children of israel served him
eight years so
he's a king so god
is israel's king but they didn't want to
serve god
so they threw off god they made
alliances
with the people that they were supposed
to destroy and remove
and now they have a new king they didn't
want god as their king
now they have a new king and it's the
king
of double wickedness and he's the king
of mesopotamia
now mesopotamia is the fertile crescent
so this is a very wealthy area this is
you know to be the king of this area
in the ancient near east this is a very
very powerful man
so they have now fallen under under
slavery
to this very powerful king because they
rejected god as their king
and he's the king of double wickedness
he's the eight years it would be like
having a president if you were american
be like having a two-term president
who's a king of double wickedness
you know these people here are all taken

over now by islam
which is an extremely wicked ideology
it's responsible for slaughtering
tens of millions close to hundreds of
millions of human beings
with no regard no value of human life
that's wickedness but it's like hey he's
not just a muslim
he's a marxist communism
terrible wickedness responsible for
slaughtering tens of millions of people
so you combine islam with marxism
and you're ruling over the people for
for eight years and oppressing them with
these ideologies and just no regard for
life
that's what happened to israel they fell
under this leader
for eight years they didn't want to
serve god so they served this
uh cushite of double wickedness who was
a very wealthy king of mesopotamia
for eight years so you can imagine all
what is happening
to the israelite people for eight years
and how they're now
unable to give god any true honor
because of the oppression
under these eight years now these
cushites what do we know about them
well their mighty hero is nimrod kush
begat nimrod
and he began to be a mighty one in the
earth he was a mighty hunter before the
lord
therefore it is said even as nimrod the
mighty
hunter of souls before the lord so this
oppressive ideology
nimrod is the star of kush so all the
kushites claim nimrod
as their superstar so this kushite
of double wickedness will have this
nimrodian

ideology of oppression and wiping out
human life

no value to human life

now we're going to see now

a judge the first judge of israel rise
up and just to get some context here
we'll go back to judges chapter 1 and
verse 12

and caleb we understand caleb's of
righteousness and his faithfulness to
the lord

as one of the two witnesses that were
faithful and caleb said he

that smites curjath suffer and takes it
so somebody's going to be bold and
faithful and courageous to him

will i give aksa my daughter to wife
imagine that

you the faithfulness of caleb imagine
how this woman was raised

and that the moral principles and and
the outlook the world view that she
would have

being the daughter of caleb and caleb
being such a mighty leader in israel
that whoever marries her would also be
now a person of renown to be able to
say that caleb's daughter is his wife
and athniel meaning othniel meaning the
force of the lord

and of nil the son of kinase caleb's
younger brother so this is now caleb's
nephew took it and caleb gave him axa
his daughter to wife so that's some
context that we have

from chapter one now just going back to
chapter two here in verse 19 just to
give him some context

and it came to pass when the judge was
dead that they returned and corrupted
themselves so spoiler alert

so othmil is going to be raised up he's
going to deliver israel
from oppression but here's the spoiler

alert here's the theme of the story
that it came to pass that when the judge
was dead that they returned and
corrupted themselves
more than their fathers in following
other gods to serve them
and to bow down unto them and they cease
not from their own doings
nor from their stubborn way so that's
the context so get ready
we're going to see some good news here
with othniel but spoiler alert
it's all going to go sideways
judges 3 and verse 10 and the spirit of
the lord
came upon him notice that the spirit of
the lord comes upon him and that's what
we'll see as we go through the judges
i will never read i don't believe that
i've read it i don't think i ever saw
that the spirit of the lord came into
him
so so the spirit of the lord didn't come
into him that these judges the spirit of
the lord comes upon them
in other words god uses them almost like
a tool
and this now begs the question do judges
have to be perfect
for god to use them do the saviors have
to be perfect specimens or do they have
to be models of jesus christ for god to
use them
and i think you know we're going to see
here othniel is superb he's the the
nephew
of caleb that's the high watermark we
never hit that high watermark again
after that it goes downhill uh israel
continues to spiral downward but god
keeps intervening and raising up judges
but the judges are not perfect and that
that's the you know can
you know today we see people saying like

god could never use this man well why
could he never use him because he's
flawed
look at all his flaws well let's look at
these saviors
and let's see how how perfect they are
or not how imperfect they are
but othniel starts off with a wonderful
start he's the high watermark
but israel not so much so the spirit of
the lord
came upon him and he judged israel
and went out to war so he's a war is
this this is fighting off the oppression
and some people have the right
character that they can fight and fight
and fight and fight and that's just what
they do they're wired for it
and other people are have more cowardice
and god could never use them in this way
but these men that god raises up and one
and a woman
they have this spirit of valor and
they're courageous and they're able to
fight so god can
use them their flaw is not withstanding
and he judged israel and he went out to
war
and the lord delivered kushan rishath
king of mesopotamia into his hand
it's always the lord that does this and
you can as we go through this when the
lord is ready
he makes a speedy work of these mighty
kings he just takes them down it's
laughable there's no contest
but they're mightier than israel but as
long as israel is faithful
god will take them down but if israel is
not faithful well then we're going to
have to contend with their might
and the lord delivered kushan rishatha
in king of mesopotamia into his hand
and his hand that is the hand of othniel

the force of the lord
prevailed against kasha kushan
rishathnayim
i wonder why they have to just put his
name in there so often i have to keep
stumbling over it but this is this is
the the holy spirit is upon
othmail to enable him to have this power
to overcome the enemies of israel and
the land had rest
40 years and then we're going to hear
some very chilling words now
it's 40 years othmail judged israel and
that again is this um
this courageous spirit the spirit of the
warrior
and whenever israel's enemies are rising
up he's just putting them down and just
keeping keeping israel
safe because his whole heart is for
israel
and he's the nephew of caleb
and he's married one of the pure virgins
of israel
and when we have a virgin of israel
who's brought up with this moral code
and this moral compass
that's that you know what is this the
visit they say uh behind every great man
there's a great woman you know it's it's
the wife who's there encouraging and
not like job's wife for example or curse
god and die
you know sometimes you marry the wrong
woman and they're just discouraging you
they don't want you to serve god
but you marry the right woman with the
right moral compass and the right moral
code
and then they're encouraging you and
they're like okay and they have wisdom
and they can remind you of scriptures
and so clearly often had married one of
the pure virgins of israel

and had strong encouragement from her
and they were a mighty couple
and he just faithfully faithfully
faithfully
fought for israel to the very end and
then he died
we already got the spoiler alert so when
the judge dies
we know exactly what's going to happen
next
so we go on now to verse 12. oh no
surprise here
we were expecting this and the children
of israel
did evil again in whose site
in their own site i'm sure if we were to
uh interview them now if we could go
back in time and get our
the camcorders and get these people
together and interview them and say like
what are you doing i see that you're
making marriages with the people of the
land they would have all kinds of
rationalizations
oh yes we know but we think that it's
better for our children to integrate and
to learn and to
you know it's going to be better for it
they're not doing evil in their own side
they're doing evil in the sight of the
lord and we need to be very careful as
christians
that of course in our own sight and
compared to the nations around us and we
think we're doing so well and we're just
so wonderful
but when we actually sit down and read
the word of god
are we doing it or are we violating it
and the children of israel did evil
again in the sight of the lord
and what happened now the lord
strengthened
eglon the king of moab against

israel so remember these nations are
mightier than israel
but god can take care of them but
instead of taking care of these nations
he is strengthening eglon the king of
moab
and again uh these people are filthy
people
these are people that are born of
immorality their their their
their matriarch was incestuous
and so she had no sexual standards and
these these people come out of a culture
then
that has no standards full of debauchery
but they're powerful people and god is
strengthening it's like you know
um years ago a few years ago every week
isis was getting stronger every week
isis was getting more territory
it's like every week you're just
listening to the news and it's like are
they going to take over the whole world
and then we see a new administration and
it's almost like within a couple of
weeks that's the end of isis
so it's like okay these people are
mickey mouse
if they're dealt with head-on with a
strong hand
but if for whatever reason god allows
them to gain strength
then all this political correctness
where we can't speak
and the enemies are gaining strength
because we cannot convey the ideas that
will destroy the enemy's ideology
so they're gaining strength well this is
the lord's doing the lord is
strengthening the enemies of israel
to take down israel and so this is what
happened anciently the lord strengthened
eglon so eglon of course would give
himself credit

so israel will give themselves credit
for being righteous while they're doing
evil
and eglon will give himself credit for
being strong
while it's actually god that's
strengthening him so it's funny how the
human
mind perceives itself compared to what's
really the real view from heaven
the lord strengthened the king
of moab against israel
why because they had done evil in whose
side and it never says they did evil in
their own sight and they're sorry for
what they did
the evil that they did was not in their
own side they were doing right
in their own eyes what the evil they did
was in the sight of the lord
and he gathered unto him this is uh
the king of moab eglon gathered unto him
the children of
ammon and amalek so moab
the children of incest ammon
children of incest and amalek uh real
intense enemies of of
israel and he gathered unto him the
children of ammon and amalek so he's a
mighty king
and he's now gathering these other
nations who hate israel and they're
going to make a short work of israel
and went and smote israel and possessed
the city of the palm trees so this
clearly would be some highly desirable
city
that clearly belongs to israel israel
should have gone in and taken this land
but no they're going in and they're
taking it so they struck israel
now uh the amalekites just quickly if we
go back to the torah
deuteronomy 25 verse 17 remember what

amalek did
unto you by the way when you were come
forth out of egypt
how he met you by the way and smote
behind most of you
even all that were feeble behind you
when you were faint and weary and he
feared not god so you can imagine
you know these people are trying to
cross and you've got the the
um older the elderly people behind maybe
the small children they can't quite keep
up this wicked these wicked people go in
and they show no mercy no mercy again
it's like the ideology of islam that's
what these people are the descendants of
and it just has no mercy it just
slaughters these are not human beings we
don't consider them they're less than
human
so we show no they just slaughter them
and even there's no mercy on the weak
and the faint and he's saying remember
that they didn't fear god remember that
therefore it shall be when the lord your
god has given you rest from all your
enemies round about in the land which
the lord has given you for an
inheritance to possess it this is your
inheritance
that you shall blot out the remembrance
of
amalek from under heaven you shall not
forget it
so god is saying don't forget this and
when you actually do go into the land
make sure you remove amalek from the
land the complete remembrance of it
they didn't do that and now amalek has
the upper hand
and he's going to slaughter them and
history just repeats itself
you know instead of us taking the upper
hand when we should we don't

the enemies prosper they come and they
get the upper hand
and woe unto god's people when the enemy
has the upper hand
back to judges 3 and verse 14.
so the children of israel served eglon
the king
god is their king they didn't want to
serve god their king
it's another serving eglon the king of
moab
18 years last one was eight years
then they had 40 years of the reign of
uh off the
the rule the rulership and the judging
of othniel and the protection of othniel
and now it's 18 years under eglon
and just remember every day every day
when these filthy people who have no
moral code no moral compass
when they have control of you
when they can go into your house and do
whatever they want with your family
that's what's going on here for 18 years
impoverishing you that offerings that
you should be taking to the lord on the
high days
you don't you've got to give it to them
you can't even keep the high days you've
got to keep their pagan days
but when the children of israel and
that's what they deserve that's that's
the covenant
that's what they deserve but when the
children of israel cried unto the lord
the lord raised them up a deliverer so
judges are deliverers they're saviors
he raised them up a deliverer and he
says here
hood the son of gara
a benjamite a man left-handed and that's
kind of funny because benjamin means son
of my right hand
but this benjamite this son of the right

hand is actually left-handed
and the hebrew implication of
left-handed it's not like today where
some people are
left-handed some people are right-handed
some people are ambidextrous
uh the intention here is that there
seems to be something wrong with his
right hand
that his right hand is somehow it's
restricted in some way
so he's forced to work with his left
hand
okay so he's a left-handed man
so let's remember that
and we see here then
sorry let me just get this right
the children they cried to the lord and
he raised them up a deliverer
the son of gara a benjamite son of the
right hand
a man left handed and by him
the children of israel sent a present
unto eglon
the king of moab so this would be like a
tribute
and and the king would expect this if
you're a subject nation you better come
with your offerings to the king
and so this man is the one that they
sent the offering
to the king now
let's see about benjamin go back to
chapter 1 verse 21 the children of
benjamin
benjamin did not drive out the jebusites
that inhabited jerusalem so they were
supposed to go in and take jerusalem
they didn't do it
they didn't drive out the jebusites but
the jebusites dwell in the la
dwell with the children of benjamin in
jerusalem unto this day
so benjamin was not particularly

faithful to god
and so they have what they have coming
comes to them but then god has mercy on
israel and he raises up from benjamin
a savior and this this is begs the
question
it really begs let's think about this
does a man have to be perfect for god's
spirit to be upon him
and god to use him to relieve his people
of their suffering or does god only work
through jesus
and only when jesus comes do we accept
man or
you could you can hear the news now you
know left left hand man bad
left hand man bad left hand man bad
left hand man bad okay
what if left hand man is the man that
god is raising up
because he has a spirit of courage and
and god knows his characteristics and
he's a flawed man
yeah left man man bad he's flawed but
there are certain characteristics he
have
chief of which is courage and god is
such love for his people
that he's going to use this man and his
unique characteristics but
but infuse them with some supernatural
context and abilities so that he can
save his people
let's read on verse 16.
but made him a dagger so he's going to
take this gift
to this man that is oppressing israel
for 18 years
and no doubt the hood is looking and
seeing what the man is doing
to israel how he's humiliating them how
he's taking their wives and their
daughters and just doing whatever he
wants with them how he's taking their

wealth

and this is going on and on and on and
finally there's somebody who's willing
to do something about it

everyone else is like oh well i guess

this is our lot oh well

and a hood is like no this we can't do
this we have to do something about this
so he says here

but made him a dagger

which had two edges of a cubit length

and he did gird it under his raiment

upon his right thigh so this man

is a very thoughtful man he's thinking
this through

he's a strategist not very many people
can think long term but this man is a
strategist

this this man is thinking things through
and thinking about how am i going to do
this

and he's probably not talking to very
many people there's not probably not
very many people around him that he can
trust

if he were to bring a fellow israelite
into his plan

they would probably be so terrified that
they would squeal

they would run to king eglon and say you
know he's gonna he's gonna

so he had to just keep this secret so he
made this dagger and it had two edges

so he's really thinking this through

what he needs

and it's about a cubit length so i think

they say from the elbow to the finger

and he put it under his right thigh so

he's left-handed

he's restricted in his right hand

somehow

and he's got he's going to put it under
his right thigh and probably the king is
not going to suspect anything because

he's maybe crippled or in some way
restricted in his right hand that he's
not even going to think about that
but because he's left-handed he's going
to be able to reach
to the right to pull this out he says
or goes on verse 17 and he brought the
present
unto eglon king of moab and
eglon was a very fat
man you know today
in the west most of us are struggling
with weight
because we live in such abundance we eat
every day every day you get up and you
can eat
you go to some nations people don't have
a weight problem
because they get up some days and they
just there's nothing to eat or there's
one meal a day
we have three meals a day and snacks in
between and sugar everywhere
and so a lot of people in the west are
overweight
but that would be unusual for most
people anciently
but not these people and not this man
this man was living
high on the hog so to speak and that was
at the expense of israel
so israel's doing all the work all the
labor and giving all the tribute
and that's that's what's making this man
fat he's just living high on the hog so
he's
very fat he's a glutton this is a
glutton with no self-control
these are immoral people and this is
their immoral king
with no self-control he was a
very fat man and when he had made
an end to offer the present he sent away
the people

that bear the present so this is uh
a hood so they would come and present
and so he sends them away
but he himself turned again from the
quarries
that were by gilgal and said
i have a secret errand unto you okay so
the sense here is that
um there's some sort of religious
sculptures
and that as they're all leaving and a
hood gets to the sculptures
maybe he's like he's inspired by the
religiosity the gods that are
there and so he's inspired me at this
point
and he turns back and he says to king
eglon
i have a secret errand unto you o king
who said keep silence
and all that stood by him went out from
him so
he's a narcissist and so the gods have a
secret message for him
oh sure let's okay if it's secret let's
go okay get clear everybody out
i can't wait to hear this secret message
from me and the hood
came unto him and he was sitting
in a summer parlor which he had for
himself
alone okay so israel
is about rule of law gentiles
are about the rule of man does whatever
he wants whenever he wants however he
wants and everybody else has to be
subject to his whims
that's the moabites
so he living on the he's got a summer
parlor
for himself alone
so that's where a hood comes in now and
hud said i have a message from god unto
you

and so he arose out of his seat it's
like this is really interesting i can't
wait to hear this
and a hood and by the way again you know
the question is
can god work through flawed human beings
as we study this man hood i hope it's
becoming very clear to us
that he's a deceiver he's a deceptive
man
but what he has that israelites that
israelites don't have
is courage and god cannot work
without courage so given a thousand
people
and one has courage god can't work with
the 999.
he's going to work with the one that has
a bit of courage and so this man is a
flawed human being he's a left-handed
man so there's already something weird
about him
that stands out he's maybe he's a little
bit of an outcast as well
but more importantly he's a thinker
with courage and so he sits down and he
strategizes
how he's going to take down this mighty
king while everyone else is just
compliant everyone else is just going
along with it
so he put forth his left hand and took
the dagger from his right thigh he sat
down and he planned this out
he thought this through carefully every
step of the way
probably wasn't the first time that he
had brought a gift to the king
and saw how the layout of the palace and
the parlor and
how the how the whole operation works
and he's just
sick of it oh everybody's sick of it but
he's sick of it and he's going to do

something about it
and the hood put forth his left hand and
took the dagger
from his right thigh and thrust it into
his belly like this is
serious i'm i'm sick of you and i'm sick
of what you're doing to israel
and we're going to take care of this
right now so he thrust it into his belly
that must have been some big belly but
he must have been such
force that he just this this is the end
of this
and the after the handle also went in
after the blade and so that gives you
the sense that
there was no division between the handle
and the blade he designed this thing
so that you it was it was inconspicuous
you wouldn't notice it was under his leg
nothing sticking out
and and when he thrust he thrust with
such force that even the handle
went into the belly and the fat
closed upon the blade so that he could
not draw the dagger out of his belly
that's how
deep it went in and the dirt came out
then a hood a hood went
forth through the porch and shut the
doors of the parlor upon him
and locked them again this is a
strategist this is somebody who can sit
down and
think and not just be afraid somebody
with a bit of backbone
he's flawed this is a flawed human being
left hand man bad
he's flawed but he has courage
and so god can work with courage he
can't work with cowardice
so he god and god has such a love for
israel
that he's got to work within the human

system so within the human system he
sees who he can work with to save israel
who has a little bit of courage here
so he went through the porch shut the
doors of the parlor upon him and locked
him

all of this is strategized he knew
exactly what he was doing
and so he locks the the doors
when he was gone out his servants came
that's the king's servants came
and when they saw that behold the doors
of the parlor
were locked they said surely he covers
his feet

in his summer chamber
in other words he must be sleeping you
know he's
big he gets tired during the day it's
hot he must be taking a nap
i'm not going to wake him up are you
going to wake him up
i'm not going to go in there i'm not
going to wake him up so we're reassuring
each other i think the right decision
here is we leave him alone
because there's no rule of law it's just
rule of man

you think of you know back in the day
saddam hussein that type of leader
where they just do whatever they like to
you and so i'm not going to wake him up
so surely he covers his feet in his
summer chamber

and they tarried there they tarried
until they were ashamed
it's like okay we're like what are we
doing here like this has been how long
has it been
and behold he opened not doors of the
parlor
therefore they took a key and opened
them
and behold so a lot of time has passed

they're just sitting there they're too
afraid to go in
finally it's like we've got somebody we
got to do something so they finally go
in they open the doors
and behold their lord was fallen down
dead upon the earth and a hood again he's
a thinker he's a strategist he's figured
this out
and a hood escaped while they tarried
and passed beyond the quarries and
escaped under seraph so they're they're
tearing he's running
and it came to pass when he was come
that he blew a trumpet in the mountain
at ephraim
and the children of israel went down
with him from the mount and he before
them
so they probably had no idea what was
going on they hear the trumpet they all
come out
and he said unto them follow after me
for the lord has delivered your enemies
the
moabites into your hands so they
probably have no clue
but he's thinking this through and he's
going to put an end to this oppression
once and for all
and god is actually working through the
human system
and working with this flawed individual
and they went down after him and took
the forwards or the
the passages the passages or the bridges
maybe the passageways
of jordan toward moab so these are
critical strategic points and suffered
not a man
to pass over and they slew of moab
at that time about ten thousand
men you know all it takes for people to
have courage is for one man to have

courage

courage is contagious and so one man has
courage and one man takes down the king
and suddenly people and people realize
like okay we don't have to be oppressed
here

we're not let let's do this and so they
follow him and they take down
ten thousand moabite soldiers and then
the the writer says here
they were all lusty and all men of valor
so they

ate well these are the king's men they
are very wealthy they're in mesopotamia
they've got all the wealth all the
slaves are bringing all the food to them
they're they're very muscular very very
well proportioned
and they're men of valor and they're
escaped not a man

god god heard the cries of israel
and you know yeah left-hand man bad but
look at the suffering in israel
so i think we'll support left-hand man
bad i think we'll support the left-hand
man because

the suffering is too much and god is
trying to act to put an end to the
suffering
all of the children that are being raped
and aborted and
and the women that are being oppressed
and raped and and abused and
the young children that are being
enslaved and all of the wealth that's
being taken from israel as they have to
like let's just stop this even if god
has to use a flawed man
he's going to stop this
so moab was subdued that day
under the hand of israel and the land
had rest

four score years so now you know the
first rest was for 40 years

now and then they rebel and they're
they're they're uh
subjugated for 18 years but now they
have rest for
80 years this is a quite an amazing feat
so god this is god's mercy on them
after him was shamgar the son of ana
so this is the third judge now which
slew
of the philistines 600 men with an ox
goad so this is the purpose of the judge
to take down israel's enemies
so that israel can be freed from
oppression that's the purpose of the
judge
and after him was shamgar the son of
anath
which slew the philistine 600 men with
an ox goad
and he also delivered israel so so this
is the third and there's not much said
here
but clearly we know the story when the
one judge dies the people return to
their wickedness
then god raises up the next judge and
delivers them and then when that judge
dies the people return to their
wickedness
and so here after shamgar we'll just
finish
with judges in verse one of chapter four
and the children of
israel did evil again in whose sight
in their own sight did the people of the
children of israel realize that they
were evil
or did they do evil in the lord's sight
so they this goes on it's been a bit of
a while you know it's just
it's it's gradual they just slip into
things people have good ideas that are
better than gods
and then they do evil in the sight of

the lord when
was dead so it's just this pattern over
and over and over again
and so that's judges chapter three i
just want to end with
um a couple of verses from the psalms uh
we're just taking a break from the
psalms but after we finish judges we'll
go back to the psalms
but it's all it's all throughout the
bible so here in psalms
we read for the oppression of the poor
for the signing of the needy you know
when we see
gangs coming in and destroying lives and
drugs destroying lives and and and these
these socialists
destroying lives and abortion destroying
lives
does god not hear the suffering
and god is the father of the fatherless
and he has mercy on the needy and he
will work within human systems
and raise up flawed human beings in
order to respond to these cries
for the oppression of the poor for the
signing of the needy
now will i arise says the lord and you
know he puts his
poor's spirit upon the judges
i will set him in safety from him that
puffs at him
so there goes eglon into the ditch
even though god is using a flawed man
hood to do it i will set him in safety
from him that puffs at him
and the words of the lord are pure words
his covenant is pure
as silver tried in a fearless furnace of
earth purified seven times
you shall keep them o lord you shall
preserve them
from this generation forever so god is
constantly going to act

to save israel because he's in covenant
with israel
and as long as israel is alive there is
hope
that there's going to be a remnant that
finally gets it mooses wrote this in
deuteronomy 30
that we'll finally repent wholeheartedly
and take up the role that god has for
israel
we are first fruits we're counting
towards pentecost here we are day 18
we're coming up to the third week in the
count
here we are so we are
now focusing on
what can we do to understand our role
let's understand our role in counting
towards
this first fruits harvest and
understanding it's not just
understanding our role but understanding
our role with respect to
the rest of israel has god forgotten
israel has he thrown israel away
and he's only working with the church
or is the church israel
but the first fruits the first fruits
harvest
of israel so so there's israel
god has not forgotten her god has chosen
her
and in the process of finally getting to
that harvest that he's looking for
he now uses
this first fruits harvest
as a tool we're a tool to help him with
the fall harvest
so we're in week three of this feast of
weeks
seven weeks day 18 of the 50 days
here we are counting and we need to
understand what is our purpose here
why are we israelites why are we grafted

into israel
and has god forgotten his covenant well
i hope as we're studying
these passages that we're beginning to
see very very clearly
that god is very very faithful to his
word
that god is a faithful god and this is
the god that we serve
this is the christ this is why christ
came
the bible tells one story from genesis
to revelation
let's be clear about it what a mighty
god we serve
what a faithful god we serve let's learn
as we go through judges
and see the mistakes of ancient israel
we as
first fruits israel let's not repeat
these mistakes
let's not be good in our own sight and
do what's right in our own sight
but god is looking down from heaven and
saying this is evil this violates my
word
let's conform ourselves to the mind of
christ
jesus christ is lord amen
you