

Hall of Faith: Ehud

Judges 3:12-30 ❖ Hebrews 11:34d

“The left-handedness of Ehud is the most significant feature of the story. The whole thing is ‘left-handed,’ unexpected. In every episode of it, what happens is not what we might have thought.”
 (“The Message of Judges,” Michael Wilcock, 39)

An Unexpected Hand

The story of Ehud is a **salvation** story.

Are you right-handed? Left-handed? Ambidextrous?

In the Bible the right hand signifies **power** and blessing.

“He sitteth on the **right** hand of God the Father Almighty.”

An Unexpected Consequence

“**Because** once **again** the Israelites did **evil** in the eyes of the Lord, He gave King Eglon of Moab power over Israel for **18** years” (Judges 3:12, 14).

Why did the Israelites not expect consequences when they “did evil in the eyes of the Lord, forgot Him and served idols” (v. 7)?

An Unexpected Deliverer

“**Again** the Israelites **cried** out to the Lord, and He gave them a deliverer - Ehud, a **left-handed** man” (v. 15).

When the Israelites sent Ehud with gifts to give to the King, why did he get a pass from security (v. 16)?

An Unexpected Method

What’s significant about Ehud’s “double-edged sword” (v. 16)?

“The word of God is **sharper** than any double-edged sword; it **penetrates** even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the **heart**” (Hebrews 4:12).

Ehud butters-up the King so he will dismiss his **body** guards and be alone when he gives him “a **secret** message” (v. 19) from God.

What are some of the details of the assassination of the King and of Ehud’s escape?

An Unexpected Happy Ending

God is in the business of delivering **sinners**.

“That day Moab was made **subject** to Israel, and the land had **peace** for eighty years” (v. 30).

No wonder we think of Ehud as one of the prophets the author of Hebrews refers to “who through **faith** became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies” (11:34d)!

Great Unexpectedations

The story of Jesus is a **salvation** story.

How were Jesus’ hands used unexpectedly?

Why do we not expect consequences when we sin?

When we cry out to the Lord in repentance, what does God do?

How was Jesus another unexpected Deliverer?

How was Jesus’ crucifixion another unexpected method of deliverance?

In what way does the Lord’s Supper teach us about another unexpected happy ending?