

Ehud: The Deceptive Deliverer 3:12-31

God raises up a deliverer. 3:12-17

- Israel's evil leads to a Moabite-led coalition that includes Amalekites, Dt. 25:17-19. God didn't help Moab in Num. 22-24, but He does here.
- Israel's cries result in God sending a deliverer (Ehud called a *savior*)
- Note emphasis on physique: a lefty Benjamite and an obese Moabite.

Deliverance begins with a deceptive assassination. 3:18-26

- Ehud returns from nearby Gilgal, claiming he received a divine word for Eglon (note idols there). Gilgal was probably a boundary, v.26.
- Why does Eglon trust Ehud enough to grant him a private audience?

Deliverance is complete after victory at the Jordan. 3:27-30

- It appears an Israelite attack was only to occur if Ehud killed Eglon.
- Compare strategy of seizing area by the Jordan River in 7:2, 12:5

*What are we to make of Ehud's methods of delivering Israel?
He uses dishonesty, deceit, and murder. Was all this fine to do?*

3:31 very briefly describes a deliverance led by Shamgar, a foreigner w/farm implement! Compare his weapon to those of Ehud and later judges. Just what do they suggest?

