



# JUDGES

our deepest need



“Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before.

“These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

“They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

“So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.”

Judges 3:1-6

- God “tests” Israel.

“You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing. I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.”

Psalm 17:3

“Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but please God who tests our hearts.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4



- God “tests” Israel.
- God “**teaches**” war.

“that the generation of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before.”

Judges 3:2

“And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

“Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia.

“And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother.

“The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

“So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.”

Judges 3:7-11

- **Othniel**



- Othniel
- **Ehud**

“And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

“He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

“Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab.

“And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

“Now Eglon was a very fat man. And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute.

“But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, ‘I have a secret message for you, O king.’ And he commanded, ‘Silence.’ And all his attendants went out from his presence.

“And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, ‘I have a message from God for you.’



“And he arose from his seat. And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out.

“Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

“When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, ‘Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber.’

“And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

“Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader.

“And he said to them, ‘Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.’ So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over.

“And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.”

Judges 3:12-30

“After him was Shamgar the son of Anath,  
who killed 600 of the Philistines with an  
oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.”

Judges 3:31



- Othniel
- Ehud
- **Shamgar**

God raises up **unlikely, imperfect, and mortal** deliverers that cannot righteously and eternally save Israel and cannot defeat the evil empires of the world.

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# Our deepest need

## **Our deepest need**

We need God to raise up an unlikely, perfect, immortal deliverer who can righteously and eternally save all people and defeat the evil empires of the world.

The Judge — Jesus on a white horse.

“After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out ‘HALLELUJAH!’

“Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND JUST; for he has JUDGED the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has AVENGED on her the blood of his servants.



“Once more they cried out,

‘HALLELUJAH! The smoke from her goes up  
forever and ever.’

“And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, ‘AMEN. HALLELUJAH!’

“And from the throne came a voice saying,

‘Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.’

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a  
WHITE HORSE! The one sitting on it is called  
FAITHFUL AND TRUE, and in  
RIGHTEOUSNESS HE JUDGES AND MAKES  
WAR.

“His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

“He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on WHITE HORSES.

“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

“On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Revelation 19



**Judges** — Jesus on a white horse

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**Savior** — Jesus on a white horse

Judges — Jesus on a white horse

Judge — Jesus on a white horse

Savior — Jesus on a white horse

**Deliverer** — Jesus on a white horse