

Word notes Sunday 19/10/08 Jan Hodge
Judges Session 3: Chap 3 vv12-30

Summary

A fat man and a left handed Benjamite

Following on from the Lord speaking direct to Israel as Judge, the book then goes on to tell the account of Othniel – a super-hero type Judge and of a kind we might readily expect. The result was 40 years of peace. As we saw in the introduction though this was not to last and once again the nation did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Leading to subjugation under Eglon the Moabite (who was described as very fat).

Enter Ehud a left-hander (which may have meant he could not use his right rather than simply had a preference for his left, maybe deformed?) whose name means “I will praise”.

Because he’s a lefthander Ehud is considered weak and of no account. He is therefore particularly useful as the envoy to send with the cash tribute to Eglon, once delivered Eglon sent them away but Ehud returns with his hidden sword (where no-one would think to look) with a message for Eglon from God.

Eglon alone wanted to hear this message (knowledge is power) and so when he was alone with this apparently meek, ineffective left-hander Ehud strikes his fatal blow and makes good his escape. As a result with Eglon dead he summons the tribes of Israel to defeat the Moabites and they see peace for 80 years.

Application:

Othniel means: “the time of God”, Ehud means: “I will praise”. The first victory resulted in 40 years peace and the second in 80 – would you agree that while Othniel was God’s man for the time, Ehud was the embodiment of a decision to praise and hence the more complete victory is the one that comes from a decision to give praise? How does this affect your attitudes and decisions?

What does God’s choice of Ehud say to you about whom He will use? Who are the ‘left-handers’ in the world’s view today and does anyone see themselves in such a category?

Ehud made a special sword – this speaks of preparation. Does God’s call always involve preparation and what form might that take today?

Witness:

By now you should be well along with the Sept/Oct social event – feed back to Tony please.

Sept-Oct task:

Organise a social event sometime over the next couple of months that Cell members can invite friends to. Examples might be a Halleluiah party for children (as opposed to Halloween) fireworks parties for families, dinner parties for adults. The aim is to have fun with non-Christians. Think ahead to the end of the year and be ready to organise Christmas or New Year events to follow-up.