

SECOND CYCLE of REBELLION: **EHUD, SHAMGAR** JUDGES 3:12-31

Judges 3:12 – “...the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel.”

Moab – descendants of Abraham’s nephew Lot (Gen. 19:36,37). They share the same Great-grandfather (Terah – father of Abraham) Gen 11:27.

Unique relationship with Israel; like feuding relatives, at times they were at peace and trusted by some; and at other times they were fiercely jealous/fearful/angry/Combative...never able or willing to reconcile.

Some historical notes about Moab:

God gave Moab a portion of land – Deut 2:9-12

King Balak (Moab) hired Balaam to curse Israel – Numbers 22-24

Moabite women led men of Israel to sin during exodus – Numbers 25:1,2

David trusts his parents to King of Moab – 1 Samuel 22:3,4

David executed 2/3? of the Moabites – 2 Samuel 8:2

Ruth (Moabite – Ruth 1:22) traced in David’s genealogy – Matt. 1:5,6

King Eglon takes Jericho (any significance?), enslaves Israel for 18 years

The name “Eglon” incorporates the ideas of a small rotund calf/bull.

Moabites were known to have a rich, fatty diet.

The adjective used to describe the Moabite soldiers (robust/stout vs. 29) was also used of rich food, fertile land and lush pastures.

Ehud = “*where is the majesty?*” – The glory of Israel had faded into slavery.

A Benjamite –

Left-handed (20:16) –

“Raised up” by the Lord –

Shamgar – killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (cattle prod).

Question: What would “he also delivered Israel” imply?

Note: Some scholars believe Shamgar was a separate cycle himself, making 7 cycles.