

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig
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Mary Craig Ministries

March 2009

We started an interesting journey through the whole Bible with our **3:16 Devotional Survey**. We are looking at the overall message of each book of the Bible and then zooming in to look at the 3.16 passage of each book.

Judges 3.16 didn't seem like something you could wrap your brain around at first. "But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh." I thought, "Okay. What's going on here? And what is God showing us in this rather obscure account of a deliverer of Israel?"

Ehud was different. He was an apple, but a green apple among red apples. Literally, he was shut of his right hand; so it is figured he was left-handed. He was ordinary; but the Spirit of God came upon him for a particular work. His name can mean "joined together," "united," "pleasant and sympathetic," or as a derivative of Yehuda, "I will give praise," or "I will give thanks." He was also brave.

After eighteen years of the Moabite King Eglon's oppression of Israel from Jericho, the children of Israel cried out for a deliverer. "Jericho strongholds" are those that have fallen back into the hand of the enemy after having been conquered. The lesson: conquered areas will have to be conquered again if we fail to persevere in the faith because the devil delights in "snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory."

Ehud was chosen to lead a delegation to the king of Moab with a present, perhaps tribute. Ehud saw opportunity and took advantage of it (cf Eph. 5.16, Col. 4.5). Ehud allowed God to use his differences to make a difference in the kingdom of God.

Eglon illustrates the flesh out of control. Eglon was an extremely obese, self-indulgent king luxuriously enthroned in the cool roof chamber of his summer palace there in Jericho. The nation of Moab originated out of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter. Moabite women seduced men of Israel into an idolatrous sexual orgy (Num. 25). Eglon's name pictures a young bull circling around in play. He as a Moabite speaks of outward profession without inward reality. He represents the visible church as opposed to the invisible church. He also represents the believer's need to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the desires of the flesh. We may have entered the Promised Land, but we need to walk in the Spirit to enjoy the blessings of our inheritance.

Ehud made a dagger with two edges and hid it under his right thigh. He refused to let this enemy continue to rule in already conquered Jericho, a place given as a blessing to God's covenant people. He prepared to confront the enemy face to face.

God orchestrates for Ehud to be alone with Eglon. Ehud sent his companions out and tells Eglon he has a secret message for him. Eglon wants quiet and sends everyone out. The message? Ehud takes the dagger and thrusts it into the belly of this man who was so fat that the fat closed upon the blade. To let us know that Eglon is really dead after all this, the Bible gives a graphic detail about the "dirt" coming out, Scripture's way of saying excrement left the body upon death.

The lesson? Put a knife to the flesh. How? By using the Word of God (Heb. 4.12) to declare the truth of the Word, declare the promises of God, and by meditating on the word of God sufficiently to let that meditation overflow in praise and thankfulness to God. (Gal. 5.16-21;

Romans 13.14)

There's another little point of spiritual warfare. Bury the dung. Deut. 23.9ff talks about it. "For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you, and to give up your enemies before you; therefore shall your camp be holy, that He see no unclean thing in you, and turn away from you." As we bury the dung, God will use it as fertilizer in the soil of humility to cause us to grow, rooted and grounded in the love of Christ.

Disobedience resulting from apathy and compromise, drifting and doubting, brought severe correction from God. When things got so bad that the people finally cried out to God for help and hopefully for repentance, God raised up a deliverer and brought reconciliation, restoration, and reassurance that He is God, the faithful God, who shows mercy and keeps covenant.

The land had rest 80 years. What is crucified with Christ dies. Know, reckon, yield. We are dead to sin and alive to righteousness. Baptized into Christ's death, we rise to reign and rule over sin. We are the land. Is it worth fighting for? Then take up the Sword of the Spirit and fight the good fight of faith!



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Rev. Jim Craig, Senior Pastor

Communion served Sunday March 8th (remember Daylight Savings Time Begins 3/8: Spring forward!)

Sunday, March 15th, join us before the worship service at 3:00 p.m. if you want to participate in a prayer strategy for our upcoming mission to Iceland and Greenland and for our nation as well.



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A teaching on the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation

With Dr. Mary Craig



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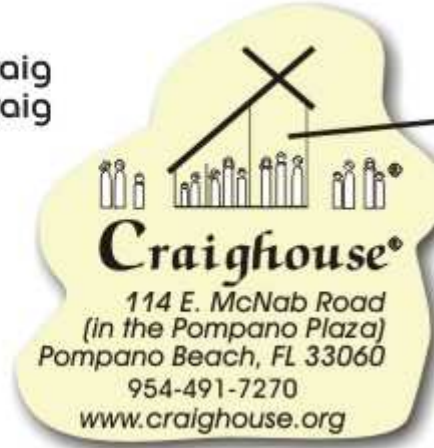
With Dr. Mary Craig



Craighouse®
114 E. McNab Road
(in the Pompano Plaza)
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
954-491-7270

www.craighouse.org

Pastors:
Rev. Jim Craig
Dr. Mary Craig



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