



The Power of God and One Person

Judges 3:15-23, 30

“So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years (Judges 3:30—ESV).

The history of Israel reminds us of the difference one man or woman can make after an entire, or almost entire, nation has turned its back on the LORD to worship idols. Remember Moses, who delivered the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. Then, almost immediately, they turned their backs on the LORD and wanted to return to Egypt. Moses continually prayed to God and struggled with them as the LORD disciplined them during forty years of wilderness wandering. Afterward, in the power of the LORD, Joshua led them into the Promised Land.

After every instance of rebellion by Israel, if the LORD had not sent deliverers, we would not have a history of Israel and a record of God’s compassion for and patience with His children. From our point of view, some of these deliverers were unconventional, but God led and empowered them. Ehud and Samson are good examples. Ehud killed Eglon alone, but afterward he rallied Israel, and they defeated the Moabites. Though Samson often strayed from obedience to God, after he repented and prayed his final prayer, God strengthened him once more and he delivered the LORD’s people from their enemies.

Without the LORD, Israel could not defeat its enemies, and neither can we defeat ours. Having abandoned the LORD, He permitted His people to suffer from their idolatry and other evils until He completed their time of necessary discipline. Then the LORD sent and empowered one man or woman as their deliverer. Though none were perfect, we learn what one person can do with the leading and in the power of the LORD and how God can often help us through one person.

In Judges 4, we remember Deborah and Jael. The LORD led them in the different ways when they delivered Israel from the Canaanites. In 1 Samuel 17:32–50, we remember that the Israelite army could not conquer the Philistines until the LORD sent a shepherd boy, David, to bring down a giant in the power of the LORD. When the time was right, God sent His Son, the only One who can save us forever from the fear of death, sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil. God still does mighty things through one person to deliver many. Today, you might be the one that the Lord Jesus calls and empowers to deliver others in need.