



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, June 13, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

**“The Lord’s Testing:  
What it means and what it does not mean”**  
Judges 3

1. The test and the failure to pass the test (Judges 3:1-6)

2. The oppressor from the north (Judges 3:7-11)

### 3. The oppressor from the east and south (Judges 3:12-30)

### 4. The oppressor from the west (Judges 3:31)

## Table Talk

- 1) Why would God test His people? How does God's "testing" square with the thought in James 1:13 that God does not tempt anyone? What kinds of challenges did Israel have for living in the world? How are they alike or different from our challenges? (Judges 3:1-4)
- 2) What is the problem with intermarriage with Canaanites in Israel? What is a corresponding problem today? Why is interracial marriage NOT the corresponding problem? (Judges 3:5-6)
- 3) What is significant about an enemy coming from Mesopotamia? Why is it important to consider all the ways that God, unknowingly to us, protects us? What happens to us when God withdraws that protection? (3:7-8)
- 4) How is Othniel able to deliver Israel? What was the role of the Holy Spirit in his life? How is the work of the Holy Spirit different today? (3:9-11)
- 5) What are the ethics of assassination in wartime? How does the story of Ehud's assassination make us glad but also make us cringe? In what ways do we see the compromise of biblical ethics in this story? In what ways do we see the compromise of biblical ethics in our own world? Is the compromise of biblical ethics unavoidable? Should we look for leaders who will save our culture no matter how they do it? (3:12-30)
- 6) What is the unusual means by which Shamgar saves Israel? Why should we not be surprised that God often saves in surprising ways? (3:31) What do you think is the intention of the author of Judges in introducing specific judges by showing a geographical order of deliverance from north, east, south, and west?