

“THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES!”

Judges 3:12-31 // September 13, 2026 PM

God raises up and cuts down tyrants for His glory and His peoples' good.

I. The kingdoms of earth rage.

II. The King of heaven laughs.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What was the point of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and how does it relate to the story about King Eglon?
2. Who strengthened Eglon so that he was able to subdue Israel? What does this teach us about God?
3. With the limited information we are given about Ehud and Shamgar, what do we learn about them? How does this highlight God's power and serve to mock the strong and powerful nations that are against Israel?
4. Why is there so much focus on Eglon's extreme fatness? How was fatness viewed differently in the ancient world than in ours?
5. How did Eglon die, and what happened after his death?
6. Read Psalm 2:1-4. How is this at play in Judges 3? And how did it play itself out ultimately in Christ's death and resurrection?
7. Why should we join God in His laughter when the nations rage against Christ and His church?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why is it so easy to be swept up in idolizing impressive authority figures? How does this text expose the folly of such?
2. How does God demonstrate His power through human weakness in Ehud and Shamgar? Why is that the ordinary way God delights to work?
3. Am I joining God in His heavenly laugh regardless of the news headlines about the nations?