

Ephesians 5:15-17 (AMP)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk! Live *purposefully* and *worthily* and *accurately*, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), ¹⁶ Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.

SEASCAPE

1. The environment is always changing.

2. Changes happen faster than you can imagine.

3. You find yourself in new places.

Psalm 56:9 [TPT]

The very moment I call to you for a father's help, The tide of battle turns and my enemies flee. This one thing I know: God is on my side.

3 TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS

TRUTH ENCOUNTERS

POWER ENCOUNTERS

PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS

John 16:33 (AMP)

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have (perfect) peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer (take <u>courage</u>; <u>be confident</u>, <u>certain</u>, <u>undaunted</u>) For I have overcome the world. (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)

John 16:33

(MSG) I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be <u>unshakable</u> and <u>assured</u>, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.

(Wuest] I have come off victorious over the world with a <u>permanent victory</u>.

Judges 3:15-17 (MSG)

The people of Israel cried out to God and God raised up for them a saviour, Ehud son of Gera, a Benjaminite. He was left-handed. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon king of Moab. ¹⁶ Ehud made himself a short two-edged sword and strapped it on his right thigh under his clothes. ¹⁷ He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Eglon was grossly fat.

Judges 3:15-17 (MSG)

¹⁸ After Ehud finished presenting the tribute, he went a little way with the men who had carried it. ¹⁹ But when he got as far as the stone images near Gilgal, he went back and said, "I have a private message for you, O king." The king told his servants, "Leave." They all left. ²⁰ Ehud approached him – the king was now quite alone in his cool rooftop room – and said, "I have a word of God for you."

Judges 3:21-24 (MSG)

²¹ Ehud reached with his left hand and took his sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king's big belly. ²² Not only the blade but the hilt went in. The fat closed in over it so he couldn't pull it out. ²³ Ehud slipped out... and shut and locked the doors of the rooftop room behind him.

Judges 3:21-24 (MSG)

²⁴ ...when the servants came, they saw with surprise that the doors to the rooftop room were locked. They said, "He's probably relieving himself in the restroom."

CYCLE OF DEFEAT

- 1. Sin
- 2. Slavery
- 3. Supplication
- 4. Salvation
- 5. Silence

2 PROBLEMS WITH ISRAEL

1. BLINDNESS

Judges 2:10 (AMP) And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers, and there arose another generation after them who did not know (recognize, understand) the Lord, or even the work which He had done for Israel.

2. BOREDOM

Judges 3:12 (MSG) But the People of Israel went back to doing evil in God's sight...

2 REASONS GOD ALLOWED THEM TO DWELL AMONG THE CANAANITES

1. To Test and Prove the Israelites Judges 3:1 (MSG) These are the nations that GOD left there, using them to test the Israelites who had no experience in

the Canaanite wars.

2. To Teach and Train them for War

Judges 3:2 (TLB) For God wanted to give opportunity to the youth of Israel to exercise <u>faith and obedience</u> in conquering their enemies:

1. DEVELOP A SENSE OF SELF WORTH

The name EHUD means – 'I shall praise God'

2. GET A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

- Our view of God is based on our personal perspective.
- Our perspective changes when we're emotionally involved
- We reveal ourselves by what we see.
- We reveal ourselves by what we do not see.
- How we interpret what we see is more important than eyesight.
 How do we see yourself in God's plan? (movie?)

 God does everything that He does according to your potential and based on a promise.

 God does everything that He does according to a plan and based on a purpose.

God does everything that He does according to a *pattern* and based on a *principle*.

 God does everything that He does according to a process and based on placement.

3. QUIT RUNNING FROM RISKS

Judges 3:18-19 (NLT) After delivering the payment, Ehud started home with those who had helped carry the tribute. 19 But when Ehud reached the stone idols near Gilgal, he turned back...

SIGNS OF EMOTIONALLY LOW FUEL

1. Fear creeps into my life. 2. I find myself running away from things. 3. I start backing out of relationships. 4. I make foolish decisions impulsively. 5. I push myself past my physical limits. 6. My work seems pointless.

SIGNS OF EMOTIONALLY LOW FUEL

7. I complain that I want to quit and give up. 8. I feel isolated and attacked. 9. I compare myself to others, and I feel bad about me. 10. I think death might bring relief. "Elijah prayed that he might die..."

4. **REPROGRAMME YOUR MIND**

3 enemies

Moab represents the *power* of the flesh.Ammon represents the *passion* of the flesh.Amalek represents the *persistence* of the flesh.

5. STAY IN THE AREA OF YOUR STRENGTH

Judges 3:21-22 (NLT) Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled out the dagger strapped to his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly.

- 1. Develop a sense of self-worth.
- 2. Get a proper perspective.
- 3. Quit running from risks.
- 4. Reprogramme your mind.
- 5. Stay in your area of strength.