



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Ehud

SPEAKER Brother Gary Koh

THEME Life Lessons From Judges

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the first of this sermon series on ***Life Lessons from Judges***, brother Gary Koh opened with a story of deliverance from the life of Ehud (Judges 3:12-30), which points us to Jesus Christ – our ultimate deliverer who sets us free from bondages and sins.

EHUD – A STORY ABOUT DELIVERANCE

Joshua brought the Israelites into the Promised Land and pledged that he and his household would serve the Lord. However, after he passed on, the next generation of Israelites worshipped idols and rejected God. Israel was once again handed over to the enemies.

1) WHY? – Acknowledge our need for deliverance

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and were subject to the Moabites for 18 years (Judges 3:12, 14). When our thinking, feeling and doing contradicts God's Word and His character, such thoughts and behaviours may form strongholds in our lives. Therefore, we are told to guard our hearts above all, for our thoughts and behaviours flow from there (Proverbs 4:23).

Strongholds may form for many reasons. Issues from our family of origin may lead to strongholds such as the fear of rejection, inability to trust and love, et cetera. Our education and how we are brought up can also lead to wrong worldviews and warped theology. They may also be formed through the impact of significant moments in our lives.

2) HOW? – God's deliverance comes through a deliverer

After they cried out to God, He provided the Israelites with a deliverer in Ehud. Ehud killed the King of Moab with a double-edged sword and led the Israelites to victory over 10,000 Moabites (Judges 3:15-30). Moab was made subject to Israel that day and peace prevailed for eighty years.

3) WHO? – God raises Ehuds to bring His deliverance

To overcome bondages and sins, we have to acknowledge our need for a deliverer, as we will not be able to do so with our own strength. Ehud faced his share of struggles in his life (Judges 3:15), such as being left-handed in a time when this was viewed as a disadvantage. Despite that, God

raised Ehud as a deliverer. Today, we have the perfect deliverer in Jesus who has set us free from sin and death (Luke 4:18).

Therefore, we should remember and proclaim God's truths that we are *more than conquerors* (Romans 8:37) and no one can be against us if God is for us (Romans 8:31). We no longer need to be subjected to bondages and sin! Like Ehud, we can also rise up to champion causes that God places in our hearts.

4) WHAT? – God's weapon for deliverance is the infilling and outworking of His Word

We need to use the weapons God has given us to demolish our strongholds (2 Cor 10:4) – the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God!

Instead of being distracted by toxic news and social media feeds, we should feed our minds with the truth of Scripture (John 8:32) and the promises of God. We can seek this out through any formats that are effective for us, be it reading the Bible, watching videos, listening to podcasts, etc.

We also need to train our brains to perceive things God's way, and not see things the world's way. To move away from the lies and strongholds in our mind, we must replace them with new truths and the promises of God (Philippians 4:8). We should renew our mind, and set our mind on what the Spirit desires (Romans 8:5-6).

Finally, we need the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ whom God has placed in our lives. We should always encourage and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph 5:19). As we confess our sins to one another, we can pray for each other so that we can be healed (James 5:16).

CONCLUSION

Strongholds are formed when we reject God and His truth. But God, in his mercy and love for us, sent Jesus to deliver us from slavery to sin and death. We are more than conquerors in Christ! So let's fill our mind with God's Word, and replace strongholds with God's truth and promises.

QUESTIONS

Read Judges 3:12-30. How were the Israelites able to overcome the 18-year rule of the Moabites to emerge victorious once again?

Reflect on the news and social media feeds you spend your time reading. How can you increase the infilling of your mind with the truth of Scripture and the promises of God instead?

Share a stronghold that you have had in your life. Which of God's weapons helped you to overcome it eventually?