Isn’t it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And common people like you and me
Are builders for eternity?
Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass, a book of rules;
And each must make ’ere life is flown,
A stumbling block or a stepping-stone.
“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

JUDGES 17:6 ESV
“After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.”

JUDGES 2:10
12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and because they did this evil the LORD gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel. 13 Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms.
14 The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years. 15 Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab.
16 Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a foot and a half long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing. 17 He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man. 18 After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way the men who had carried it.
19 At the idols near Gilgal he himself turned back and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." The king said, "Quiet!" And all his attendants left him. 20 Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his summer palace and said, "I have a message from God for you."
As the king rose from his seat, 21 Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king’s belly. 22 Even the handle sank in after the blade, which came out his back. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it. 23 Then Ehud went out to the porch; he shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.
24 After he had gone, the servants came and found the doors of the upper room locked. They said, "He must be relieving himself in the inner room of the house." 25 They waited to the point of embarrassment, but when he did not open the doors of the room, they took a key and unlocked them.
There they saw their lord fallen to the floor, dead. 26 While they waited, Ehud got away. He passed by the idols and escaped to Seirah. 27 When he arrived there, he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went down with him from the hills, with him leading them.
28 "Follow me," he ordered, "for the LORD has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands." So they followed him down and, taking possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab, they allowed no one to cross over. 29 At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not a man escaped.
30 That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years.”
4 Stages in the Book of Judges

• STAGE 1: THE APOSTASY STAGE...
• STAGE 2: THE SERVITUDE STAGE...
• STAGE 3: THE SUPPLICATION STAGE...
• STAGE 4: THE SALVATION STAGE...
EHUD: WHO IS THIS MAN?

• He was the son of Gera, a Benjamite.
• He was given the responsibility of taking the tribute to present to Eglon.
• He was willing to go it alone.
• He was a military strategist.
• He wasn’t afraid to confront the enemy.
LESSONS FROM JUDGES

• We can’t read the book of judges without talking about sin.
• Left unchallenged, sin can grow to epic proportions.
• Sin is ugly.
• Sin is not easy to kill.
• People are content to stay enslaved for a long period of time.
The literal translation of this particular phrase is "hindered in the right hand".

Twice the text says that he put the sword on his right side because he was left-handed.

Ehud, we know, came from the tribe of Benjamin, a name that means "son of my right hand" – a term of strength.
EHUD’S HANDICAP...

- Ehud suffered with a handicap and was not well known. He was an underdog, an obscure person, a man whom God chose to use to his glory.
- Ehud could very easily have dwelt on his disability and doubted his value to God.
2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.
“...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.