

# Carolyn Roth Ministry

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## Newsletter



### Stinkweed in the Bible

Stinkweed was identified by Job (Job 31:38-40). Job was a contemporary of Abraham.

When introduced, Job is healthy, wealthy, and blessed with beautiful daughters and handsome sons. He worships God; all is right in his world. Then, in a short time, his children are killed and flocks destroyed; his health deteriorates. We learn that these calamities were brought about by Satan. God allowed them in order to show Job's dedication to him.

When friends visited Job, they contended that Job's losses were from God in payment for Job's sins. Job defended himself against their accusations. In Job's final defense, he concurred that calamities were from God; yet, Job attempted to vindicate himself. Some of Job's words focused on stewardship of his land:

"If my land cries out against me, and all its furrows are wet with tears, if I have devoured its yield without payment or broken the spirit of its tenants, then let briars grow instead of wheat, and stink weed instead of barley" (Job 31:38-40 NIV).

In the *King James Bible*, stinkweed is translated as "cockle." Cockle is the plant associated with stinkweed in the *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. This dictionary averred that cockles grow in Palestinian grain fields.

The cockle is the *Agrostemma githago*. Present-day farmers and gardeners call the plant "corn cockle." As you see in the image of the corn cockle, the flower is a beautiful pink and leaves a pleasant green. The entire cockle plant, especially seeds, contain poisonous compounds which spoil flour and can cause death if eaten. Job's plowed furrows were a good place for corn cockle to grow.

**Reflection:** The choices we make in our lives—to remove weeds or not—have long-term effects. Sometimes those effects are life-and-death ones. At other times, they are less dire. St. Paul offered a rule of thumb for early Christian decision making. He wrote, "let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3).





## Good News in Nature

Early in 2019, this book was published. The focus is plants that Jesus used in miracles, parables, teachings and just otherwise encountered in his ministry.

If you do not have this book and want a copy, do not buy either the paperback or electronic copy. Instead send me an email and I will mail you a copy free-of any-charge. It will be a hard copy with all of the beautiful plant illustrations.

Cost of book on Amazon is \$10.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling; but you do not have to pay this amount.

Pay only S & H.  
I do not mail outside of continental United States.

The best email address is: [carolynrothministry@gmail.com](mailto:carolynrothministry@gmail.com).

Thanks.

## Judge Ehud

**Bible Reference:** Judges 3: 12-30.

**Heart of the Story:** Ehud was left-handed.

When the Israelites sinned by worshipping foreign gods, God caused Eglon, king of Moab, to suppress the Israelites. Israelites paid tribute to King Eglon for 18 years. Eventually, the Israelites repented of their sins and God raised Ehud to be their military leader. Ehud was a Benjaminite and the second judge in the Promised Land.

King Eglon was a very obese man and his obesity is important to the way that Ehud murdered him. The Israelite took their tribute to King Eglon. After the Israelites left the King, Ehud turned back and told the king that he had a secret message for Eglon. King Eglon ordered all attendants out of his presence and the door shut.

Ehud reached to his left side and pulled a sword. Ehud stabbed his sword into King Eglon's belly. Because King Eglon was so obese Ehud's sword was buried in his rolls of stomach fat. His intestines were ruptured and he shortly died.

He went Ephraim where he sounded a trumpet. Ephraimite men responded to the trumpet call. Ehud led them to secure the fords of the Jordan River between Moab and Israel. They killed about 10,000 Moabites at that time. The Bible noted that Israel had rest after Ehud's action for 80 years.

**Reflection:** King Eglon was murdered because of assumptions of his attendants, that is, all warriors were right-handed. Think about assumption you make that can cause problems in your life.

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