

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Judges 5

In our study last week, we looked at how the Lord once again raised a judge to help deliver the Children of Israel – this time against the King of Canaan

And the King of Canaan oppressed Israel for 20 years and then they cried out to the Lord

So, the Lord raised Deborah – who was a prophetess / not only was she a prophetess, she also judged Israel.

So the Lord used Deborah to bring a word of confirmation to Barak.

He was supposed to assemble 10,000 unarmed Israelites and go to battle against the commander of the army (Sisera) and his 900 chariots of iron – how do we know that he had 900 chariots of iron, because the scriptures point it out several times.

So Barak hesitated – and added a condition – that Deborah accompany him.

Deborah agrees to go – however, because Barak hesitated - the glory of killing Sisera belonged to a woman – and we saw that it was Jael that drove the tent peg through Sisera's temple and into the ground.

However, before Sisera even went to hide out in Jael's tent, we saw that the Lord was the One who had defeated Sisera's army by sending a rain storm and flood into the valley of Meggido.

If chapter 4 is the movie of how the Lord used Deborah/Barak and Jael to deliver the Israelites – Ch 5 would be the musical that commemorates the amazing victory.

So the question is asked – why a song????

Why didn't the Holy Spirit inspire Samuel to just continue on to the next judge???

And the answer to that question – we find throughout our text this evening.

Let's pray...

[Jdg 5:1-31 NKJV] 1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: 2 "When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the LORD!

Part of the problem that started this whole thing was that the leaders of Israel were not doing their job.

The tribal elders were not leading the people in obedience to the Lord.

The priests had neglected their duty of teaching God's Word.

And when there's not leadership calling people to the right way, when the leaders are not leading by example, the people will turn to their own way.

However, when the leaders lead – which is what we saw as Barak and Deborah gathered the men to fight and led them into battle.

So when leaders lead and the people give of themselves, meaning they are united / they are of one accord – when everyone is doing their part – then we see the blessing of unity.

Not only are the leaders doing their part – but the people are offering of themselves

Write this verse down.

[Psa 133:1-2 NKJV] 1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 [It is] like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

Remember, oil in scripture is a picture of the Holy Spirit

So there is a connection between unity and the work of the Holy Spirit

We saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church (book of Acts) when everyone was on the same page.

This teaches us that unity is necessary to the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

So we should be praying for the Lord to help to get united in the church in order to that the blessings might flow and that there will be an outpouring of oil upon our lives.

3 "Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, [even] I, will sing to the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

I had you make a note of the beginning of verse 3 –

And the reason that I had you highlight it is that Israel, at this time in their history, had no king, there were no princes

That means that Deborah and Barak wanted this song/ this poem to be sung among the Canaanites – to remind them that the God of Israel, the One True Living God brought deliverance to the Children of Israel – unlike their manmade false gods.

4 "LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth trembled and the heavens poured, The clouds also poured water; 5 The mountains gushed before the LORD, This Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.

Here we see God's deliverance coming from an unexpected place.

Notice – You went out of Seir, You marched from Edom – speaking about God

Seir is a mountain top in Edom – in the middle of the Sinai Peninsula – which we know is bone dry desert

This is also the region where God provided for the Children of Israel as they wandered the wilderness – this is the way they came in when they made their way to the

Promised Land –this is where God spoke to Moses and gave the Children of Israel the law.

So this is a picture of the Lord's past deliverances as well as His deliverance against Sisera and the chariots of iron.

6 "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways. 7 Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.

So here we see how bad it was during the twenty years that they were oppressed by the king of Canaan

The streets were empty – there was no travel, no commerce because they were afraid of the oppression from the Canaanites.

This is the way it was until Deborah arrived on the scene & stirred the people of Israel to return to the Lord.

Notice how she refers to herself as a mother in Israel.

Not the mother of Israel

(a mother in Israel)

Her point was that she was no one special, just a mom, but she was a mom who refused to compromise her faith in God in the smallest way.

And God took that faithfulness & turned it into the salvation of many.

8 They chose new gods; Then [there was] war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

The Israelites embraced Canaanite life and its religion.

God gave them over to it, and it wasn't long before they were conquered and enslaved.

They were left defenseless because they let their guard down.

In the same way, we as believers can become disarmed.

When we, for example, doubt the power of prayer, or the truth of God's Word, or the assurance of our salvation - we lay down our spiritual weapons and become easy prey for the roaring lion.

9 My heart [is] with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless the LORD! 10 "Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road. 11 Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD, The righteous acts [for] His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the LORD shall go down to the gates. 12 "Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam!

This is a call to declare & celebrate what God has done.

The badge of office for a ruler during this time was a white donkey.

A ruler would make the rounds of his region, riding on a white donkey.

He's always come to the gate of a city first where the people would welcome him, then he would make his official announcements.

The idea here is that the leaders need to make sure the story of God's goodness is spread far & wide among His people.

So one way they would do this is through this song.

13 "Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles; The LORD came down for me against the mighty. 14 From Ephraim [were] those whose roots were in Amalek. After you, Benjamin, with your peoples, From Machir rulers came down, And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff. 15 And the princes of Issachar [were] with Deborah; As Issachar, so [was] Barak Sent into the valley under his command;

They sing about those who came to the battle.

Joining the initial 10,000 from Naphtali & Zebulun, were commanders & warriors from the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh & Issachar, as well as more from Zebulun than had initially answered the summons.

However, not all the tribes chipped in.

Among the divisions of Reuben [There were] **great resolves of heart**. 16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the pipings for the flocks? The divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart. 17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, And why did Dan remain on ships? Asher continued at the seashore, And stayed by his inlets.

The tribes of Reuben, Gilead, Dan, and Asher refused to come:

- The leaders of Reuben used the excuse that, after great searching of heart, they simply couldn't leave their flocks.
- Gilead is the tribe of Gad. They settled outside the Promised Land. They were on the other side of the Jordan. Jabin's reign hadn't affected them so they didn't really care a whole lot about the battle
- The leaders of Dan were busy trading and doing business so they didn't go to war with the brothers.
- The leaders of Asher were too busy playing at the beach – so they didn't send anyone either.

Church

In these four tribes – I see the same excuses as why many choose not to do things for the Lord.

We could be like the tribe of Reuben – we debate whether or not we should and in the end, we don't go. Reuben debated so long that he missed the entire battle.

There are just too many things going on – work, other priorities. And plus it is safer to stay within the sheepfold than to go to battle.

We could be like the tribe of Gad – We are not suffering persecution at this time, everything is rosy – why would I change that???

We could be like Dan???. Bills need to get paid.

Or we could be like Asher – I am having too good of a time right now –

Church God calls us –

I want you to do this, to experience that, to have victory here, to gain spoil there

And if we are like these 4 tribes, we miss out on what He has for us.

We need to get involved

We need to engage

We need to be part of what the Lord is doing.

We don't want to miss out.

18 Zebulun [is] a people [who] jeopardized their lives to the point of death,

Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

Stop right here –

God, guaranteed victory

We saw last week the prophetic word that Deborah told Barak –

I will deliver him (Sisera) into your hand'

So how were Zebulun and Naphtali jeopardizing their lives???

Here is the thing church – and it is something we have to grasp

God said He would deliver their enemy into their hand – that was the promise.

It did not specify there would be no danger, or loss of life.

Sometimes we are delivered from trouble, but other times we are delivered through trouble.

I am victorious if God heals me; I am victorious if He doesn't, because I have ultimate healing in Heaven.

19 "The kings came [and] fought, Then the kings of Canaan fought In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; They took no spoils of silver. 20 They fought from the heavens; The stars from their courses fought against Sisera. 21 The torrent of Kishon swept them away, That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength! 22 Then the horses' hooves pounded, The galloping, galloping of his steeds.

This is how the Lord brought victory against Sisera and the 900 chariots –

We read this section last week.

God used a thunderstorm

Barak lead the Israelites down into the valley of Megiddo and the storm brings a wall of water that washes away some of the chariots – and the chariots that didn't get washed away, they became useless because they got stuck in the mud.

Now, remember, last week we saw in chapter four that the Canaanite army fled – at least those that were left.

We have to remember that they worshipped Baal –

And Baal was known as the god of thunder – remember, the reason that the Children of Israel turned to the worship of Baal was because they depended on the rain for the harvest / for prosperity.

So here the Canaanites are ready to fight when the rains come and render their chariots useless. Therefore, in their minds, Baal was punishing them.

23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly,

Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD

against the mighty.'

Meroz was a city in Nephtali – for whatever reason, the inhabitants of Meroz failed to join the battle – and we see that they were cursed of God.

Why were they cursed???

You see, the bible says that there are sins of commission – sins we are guilty of doing.

But there are also sins of omission.

[Jas 4:17 NKJV] 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

Paul in Romans 7, also goes over the sin of commission and the sin of omission

He does what he doesn't want to do and knows is wrong—the sin of commission—and he doesn't do what he knows he should do and really wants to do—the sin of omission.

Jesus in Matt 25 – deal with the same thing when He talks about the day when He will separate the sheep from the goats –

[Mat 25:37-40 NKJV] 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed [You], or thirsty and give [You] drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take [You] in, or naked and clothe [You]? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did [it] to one of the least of these My brethren, you did [it] to Me.'

There was no sin committed against these needy people—they were not intentionally starved or deprived of their clothing. But the sin of omission was committed when those who could have provided for them chose not to.

24 "Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents. 25 He asked for water, she gave milk; She brought out cream in a lordly bowl. 26 She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple. 27 At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.

Here again we have the retelling of how Jael made sure Sisera stuck around in her tent and didn't get away.

It is actually grosser than we saw last week.

28 "The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot [so] long in coming? Why carries the clatter of his chariots?'

Earlier we had seen Deborah mention that she was a mother in Israel.

Here she speaks of Sisera's mom.

Sisera's mom is looking out her window wondering why her son hasn't shown up for dinner.

29 Her wisest ladies answered her, Yes, she answered herself, 30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil: To every man a girl [or] two; For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments, Plunder of garments embroidered and dyed, Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?'

The female servants try to comfort Sisera's mom by telling her that he is probably late because he has to divvy up all the spoils of victory – the plunder that he got from defeating the Israelites.

At first, Sisera's mom comes across as normal – she is concerned with why her son is late.

But then we find out she is not normal.

She calls her son a plunderer, a looter

The phrase, To every man a girl [or] two, is talking about the women that Sisera and his men raped during their plundering and robbing.

The lady is a socialpath – she only cares about the garments and the jewelry that Sisera is going to bring back.

There is a huge contrast between Deborah and Sisera's mom.

This shows us the wickedness of Canaanite culture

31 "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But [let] those who love Him [be] like the sun When it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for **forty years.**

Forty years is in reference to a generation –

So for forty years after God used Deborah and Barak – they people of Israel had rest.

But when we see verse 1 from the next chapter, we see that they repeated the cycle again and did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Now, concerning the reason for the song???

The reason for this song is the same reason that you and I worship.

We remember that we serve Almighty God

We remember that He is all powerful

We remember how great He is

We remember how He has delivered us and will continue to deliver us

We remember that it is He who brings us victory

We remember that He wants to work in us and through us

And it is through songs that we remember to thank Him for saving us.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

