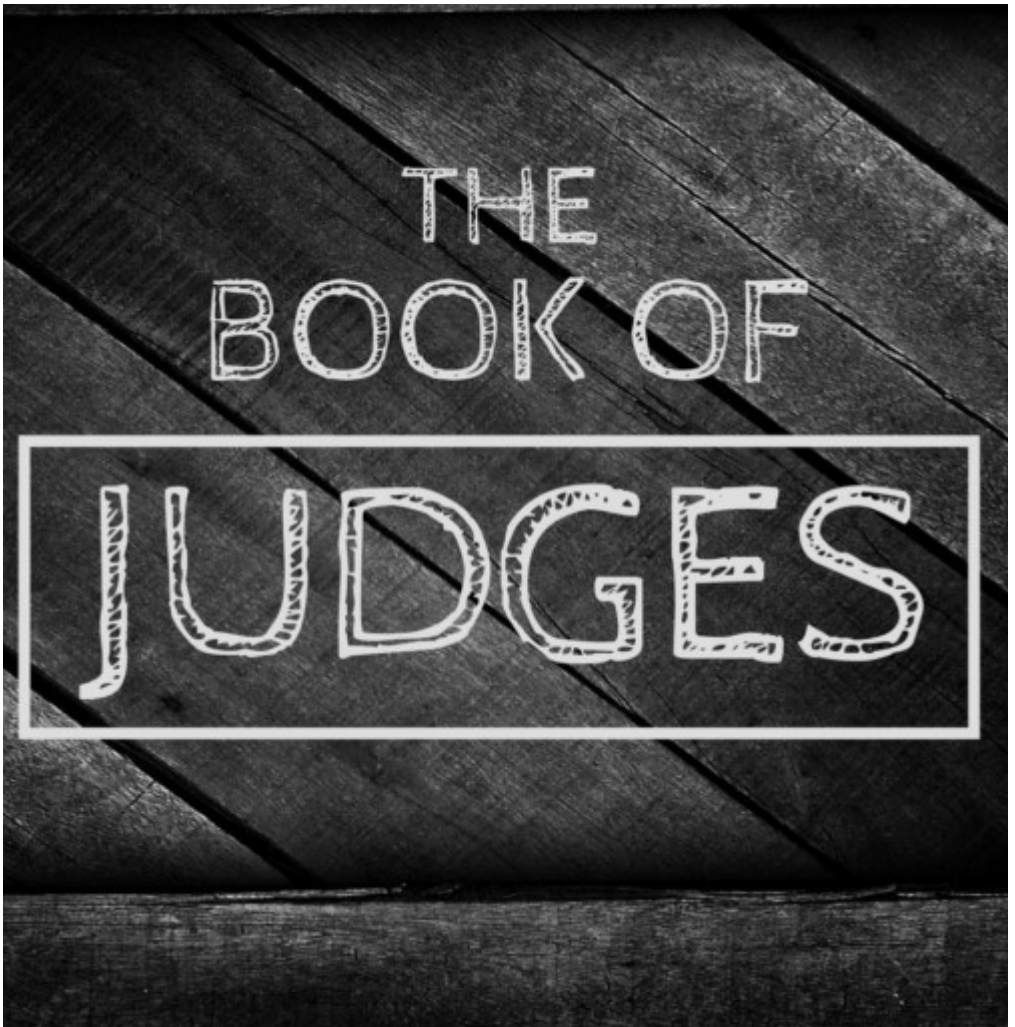


Let's Worship God

14th-19th February 2022
Judges



JUDGES

Monday - Judges 4:1-3 - Jabin and Sisera

In Judges 4, the action shifts from the south to the north. As has happened before, once delivered by God, who raised up Ehud and Shamgar to deliver Israel from oppression, the people turn from the LORD. This time, He gives them over to the Canaanite King Jabin, whose capital was at Hazor, a city about ten miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

In Joshua 11, we read of Jabin, King of Hazor, who sent armies against Israel. Joshua and the Israelites defeated the enemy armies and burned Hazor. Now Hazor has been rebuilt and another Jabin (probably a descendant of the earlier man of that name) is reigning there. God uses him as His instrument to chastise Israel.

The commander of Jabin's army is Sisera, who lives at Harosheth-hagoyim. The name of this place means "Forest of the Gentiles," and thus may indicate a place where Sisera and his Gentile army encamped within the lands of Israel. Sisera is the leader of an occupying force, oppressing Israel. They have "900 chariots of iron" - heavily armored war chariots with iron fittings. Humanly speaking, their military prowess is overwhelming. The Israelites cannot stand up to Jabin and Sisera.

However, as Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13 tell us, those who call upon the LORD in faith shall be saved. After twenty years of oppression under Jabin and Sisera, the Israelites do just that - they cry out to the LORD - and, as we will see in this week's study, He saves them. Once again, God disciplines His people and uses their afflictions to bring them back to Himself when they are straying. Sadly, it took twenty years for Israel to repent.

Questions

1. Why did God allow Jabin and Sisera to oppress Israel?
2. How long did the oppression last?

Prayer Points

1. Pray God will bring us back to Himself if we stray.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Tuesday - Judges 4:4-10 - Deborah and Barak

In the hill country of Ephraim, between Ramah and Bethel, stood a tree known as Deborah's Palm. This is because it was the custom of Deborah to sit under that palm tree and render judgments in Israel. Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a woman whom the LORD raised up as a prophetess in Israel. Moreover, He gave her wisdom and the other necessary gifts to fulfill the office of judge. However, it was the responsibility of men to protect the women and children of Israel. Therefore, God did not call Deborah to military service as He called the other judges. Instead, He revealed to Deborah that Barak son of Abinoam, from the town of Kedesh in the land of the tribe of Naphtali was to lead Israel's forces against Jabin's army.

In today's Scripture lesson, Deborah tells Barak that he is to gather ten thousand men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor, while the LORD draws Sisera out to fight with him by the river Kishon. Mount Tabor stands at the north side of the valley of Jezreel, through which the river Kishon runs. As Mount Tabor is a small mountain with gentle slopes, Barak knows it will offer little protection against Sisera's chariots. He refuses to go unless Deborah accompanies him. Deborah agrees, but declares that this course of action will not lead to Barak's glory. Rather, God will give Sisera into the hand of a woman. Perhaps Barak thinks this woman will be Deborah. Nevertheless, his lack of trust and obedience will indeed lead to Sisera's downfall not by Barak's hand, but by the hand of a woman - Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite.

The LORD is pleased to use His people to bring about His plans. Nothing we do or fail to do will alter God's plans or purposes, but there is great blessing to be had in obedience to God's commandments.

Questions

1. What makes Deborah different from the other judges?
2. How did Barak demonstrate a lack of trust in God?
3. Why would God deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman?

Prayer Points

1. Ask God to help us trust Him more.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Wednesday - Judges 4:11 - Heber the Kenite

Remember in chapter one, we learned of the Kenites? They were a group of people descended from Moses' father-in-law who settled in the land of the tribe of Judah. In Judges 4:11 we find that these Kenites were descended from a man called Hobab. Numbers 10:29 tells us Hobab was the son of Reuel (also known as Jethro). Reuel was Moses' father-in-law. However, most translations of Judges 4:11 say that Hobab was Moses' father-in-law. Is the Bible wrong? Can we not trust what it tells us?

In fact, the very same Hebrew letters are used to spell "father-in-law" and "brother-in-law." Therefore, as we compare Scripture to Scripture we find it is best to translate the word here as "brother-in-law." The Bible is not wrong and we can trust what it tells us.

Heber has separated from his people, who are settled in the south, and has instead pitched his tent near Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. Later, we will see that there are good relations between Heber and Jabin, and the LORD will use this to bring about Jabin's downfall. It is at least partly for this purpose that God ordained Heber's move to the north of Israel.

God has ordained whatsoever comes to pass. He works out His providential plan even through what may seem to us to be the most inconsequential decisions. Praise be to God that He is in control of all events.

Questions

1. Who were the Kenites?
2. Who is in control of Heber the Kenites' move to northern Israel?
3. Can we trust the Bible?

Prayer Points

1. Praise God for His Providential control of all events.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Thursday - Judges 4:12-16 - Sisera Defeated

As God has revealed through Deborah, when Barak gathers Israel's army at Mount Tabor, God draws Sisera out to battle at the river Kishon. Recall from Judges 4:3 that Sisera had 900 chariots of iron. Verse 13 tells us that Sisera brings his entire force, including all his chariots, to fight Israel. They travel from Harosheth-hagoyim (the forest of the Gentiles) to the river Kishon to meet Barak's forces in battle.

Though Barak was reluctant before, he now obeys the LORD when Deborah tells him to attack, "For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand." The Israelites charge down Mount Tabor and put Sisera's army to flight. They chase down the chariots and destroy the entire army. Only Sisera escapes, as he dismounts his chariot and flees away on foot.

Notice what we are told in verse 15. It was not Barak who routed the Canaanite army. It was not the ten thousand men of Israel. It was the LORD who defeated Sisera. Only by God's strength did Barak and the Israelites gain victory and pursue their enemies all the way back to Harosheth-hagoyim.

Apart from God, there can be no victory for His people. By His grace, all His and our enemies are conquered.

Questions

1. Who defeated Sisera and his army?
2. Can we have any victory apart from God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will give us the strength to do His will.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Friday - Judges 4:17-22 - Jael

Of all of the Canaanite army, only its commander, Sisera has survived the battle. When he sees that defeat is inescapable, he gets down from his chariot and flees on foot. While the Israelites have been busy pursuing Sisera's army to Harosheth-hagoyim, Sisera has run north from Mount Tabor, twenty miles or more to where Heber the Kenite is encamped near Barak's hometown of Kedesh in Naphtali. There is peace between Heber and King Jabin, whom Sisera serves, so Sisera likely thinks he can find a safe place to hide among Heber's people. What Sisera may not know is the long history and close relationship between the Kenites and Israelites, going back to the time of the Kenites' ancestor, Hobab, who was Moses' brother-in-law.

Seeing Sisera coming, Heber's wife, Jael, offers him a hiding place in her tent. However, sheltering him is not what Jael has in mind. She keeps watch at the door of the tent until Sisera, exhausted from the battle and from his long run, falls asleep. When he is fast asleep, Jael takes a hammer and drives a tent peg through his head. Thus God's prophecy by Deborah is fulfilled. The LORD has sold Sisera into the hand of a woman. Barak arrives only in time to be shown Sisera's corpse, lying staked through the skull in Jael's tent.

Instead of the praise going to the victorious general, Barak, it will be Jael who gets the praise for Sisera's defeat. Nevertheless, it is God who has caused all these things to happen. The praise ultimately belongs to Him. It is He who has mightily used Jael for this purpose.

Questions

1. How was God's prophecy in Judges 4:9 fulfilled?
2. Whom did God use to destroy Sisera?
3. Why might Sisera have thought he would be safe in Jael's tent?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God may use us mightily to achieve His purposes in the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Saturday - Judges 4:23-24 - Jabin Destroyed

The defeat of Sisera and his army is not the end of the story. The destruction of the army and the death of Sisera is merely the beginning of Jabin's downfall. Jabin, King of Hazor, has been oppressing Israel for twenty years. Now that the people have cried out to God for deliverance, He is saving them, not just from Sisera and Jabin's army, but from Jabin, himself.

Notice verse 23 tells us it was God who subdued Jabin the king of Canaan. Strengthened by God and encouraged by their victory against Sisera, the Scriptures tell us Israel presses harder and harder against Jabin. That is, they attack him again and again until they utterly defeat his forces and kill him.

When God grants victory, in the end, it will not be a partial win, but a total victory. However, that does not mean it will be instantaneous. We have victory over sin and death in Jesus Christ, but we find our experience of that victory to be progressive. Over time, we learn more and more to defeat sin in our lives - more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness. Nevertheless, Jesus has already lived a perfect life in our place, He has already paid the price for our sins on the cross, and He has already defeated death in His resurrection. God has already decreed victory for those in Christ. So, we can fight the battle against sin today, knowing that He has already guaranteed its defeat.

Questions

1. Who defeated Jabin?
2. How was Israel used by God to destroy Jabin?
3. Was the victory instantaneous?
4. How is this like our fight against sin?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

So on that day, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
Judges 4:23

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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