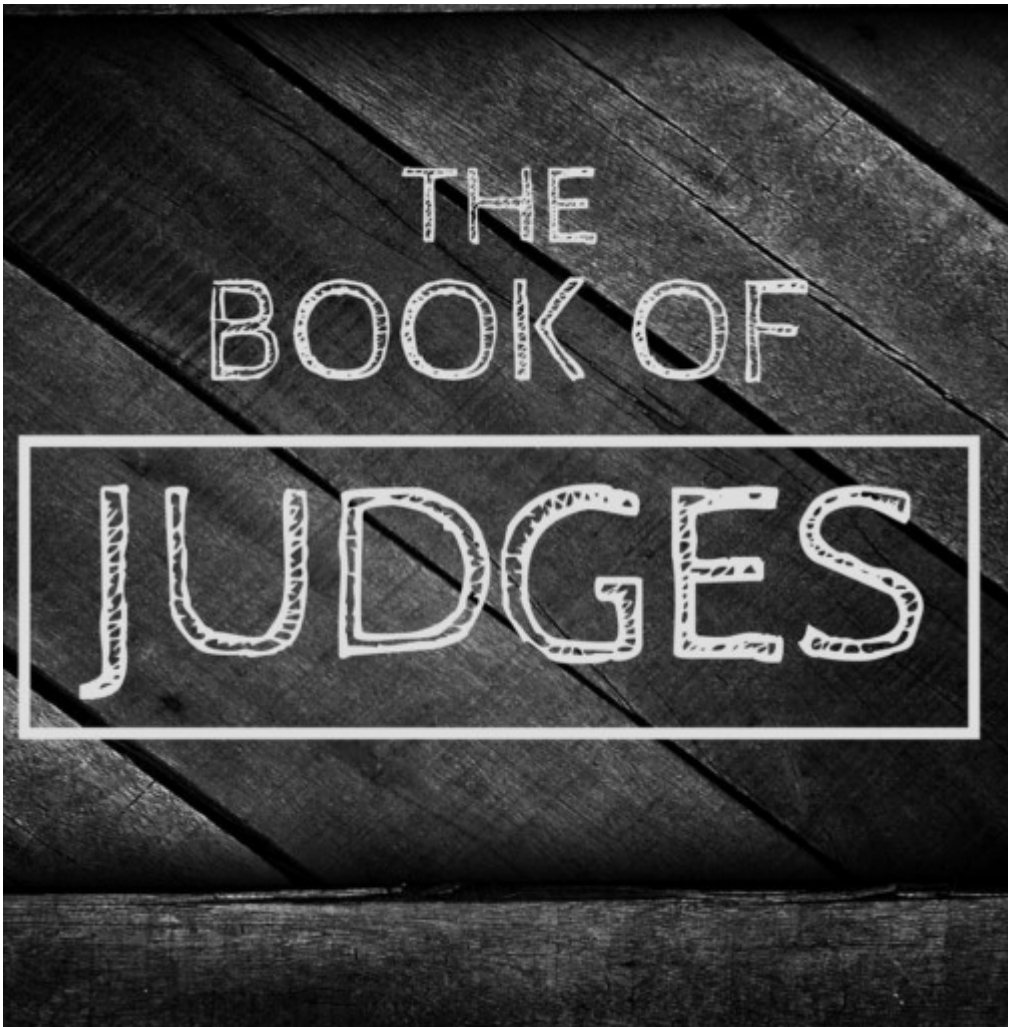


# Let's Worship God

21st-26th February 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 5:1-5 - Leadership**

As Judges 5:7 indicates, Deborah, herself composed this song in celebration of Israel's victory over Sisera and Jabin. Verse one tells us she and Barak sang it on the day Jabin was destroyed. The song is addressed to leaders. Although there was no king in Israel in the days of the judges, the "kings" and "princes" of verse three may be a poetic reference to the leaders of Israel. It might also be a warning to the kings of the nations surrounding Israel. If the LORD protected His people from such a powerful man as Jabin, who else could dare to oppress them.

Verses four and five point out that any military victory for Israel has come only by the might of the LORD, making reference to Mount Sinai, where the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land began, and Mount Seir (in the land of Edom). As Numbers 20 tells us, it was when Israel was turned back from the land of Edom that the wars for control of the land of Canaan began. The victory over Jabin is a continuation of that God-led effort.

Verse two praises the leaders of Israel for stepping up when called to duty, and the people for following them willingly. While victory comes from God alone, He is pleased to use means to bring it about. In this case, it is the means of strong leadership. Similarly, God, today, calls elders and pastors to positions of leadership in His Church. He is pleased to use such leaders to advance His Kingdom as the people, armed, not with material weapons, but with the Word of God, follow them in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and fallen world.

## **Questions**

1. Whom did God use to give Israel victory over Jabin?
2. Whom does God use to lead His Church today?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the leaders of your church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise: Psalm 25 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 5:6-11 - Lack of Leadership**

As Deborah praised the leaders for taking the lead in Israel in verse two, now she laments the lack of good leadership that preceded her rise. It seems that the days of Shamgar the Judge, whose exploits are mentioned in Judges 3:31, overlapped the days of Deborah. While the LORD has used Shamgar to liberate Israel from the Philistines in the south, He has used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to liberate Israel from the Canaanites in the north.

Prior to this time, the land was a dangerous place in which to live. The lack of good civil leadership had led to the highways being abandoned. Israelites had chosen new gods, and the LORD had left them militarily weak as a result. Poor organization had probably led to unsafe roads overrun by bandits and brigands. The Hebrew noun at the beginning of verse seven can either be translated as "villagers" or "leaders." So, either it was unsafe to live in an un-walled village, or the leadership in Israel had failed. This sad state of affairs continued until God raised up Deborah as a prophetess and judge. Barak and the commanders of Israel's armies rose up, then, and defeated the Canaanites. Now there is prosperity and stability once more, indicated by the white donkeys, rich carpets and musicians playing at the watering places.

Many of us, today, lament the deplorable conditions of our once well-ordered societies. We see families in chaos, cities rampant with crime, riots, mass murders, and so on. In part, this is due to a lack of godly leadership. We must pray that God would raise up for us leaders in civil government who fear and obey Him.

## **Questions**

1. Why was the land a dangerous place before Deborah's time?
2. What does verse 8 blame for Israel's weakness?
3. Whom did God raise up as a civil leader to remedy this situation?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the LORD will raise up godly leaders in civil government.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise: Psalm 26 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Wednesday - Judges 5:12-18 - A Divided People

Judges 4:6 informs us that the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali took part in the battle against Sisera. However, it seems they did not go unaided by the other tribes of Israel in the war against Jabin that followed. Ephraim, Benjamin, Issachar and Machir (the half of Manasseh living east of the Jordan) joined the battle against the Canaanites. The tribes of Judah and Simeon are not mentioned (probably indicating they were not called to aid in the war effort). However, the tribes of Reuben, Dan, Asher and Gilead (in this context this probably refers to Gad who lived in Gilead alongside Manasseh) are specifically named as not having helped. It is likely they were asked to assist in the war effort but either refused or vacillated.

Why did these tribes not help when asked? It seems that self-interest kept them at home. Reuben is said to have had "great searchings of heart," remaining among the sheepfolds. In other words, the men of Reuben could not make up their minds about what was the right thing to do. Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, Dan stayed by the ships and Asher by the sea coast. Each of these tribes stayed home to guard their own interests rather than take the risks inherent in war.

The Church, today, is engaged in warfare. Ephesians 6 tells us that this war is not a material war, fought with swords, rifles or missiles, but a spiritual war in which we employ the Word of God, faith, prayer, and righteousness. We are called to participate in this war and not to sit it out.

## Questions

1. Why did Deborah praise Zebulun, Naphtali, Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir, and Issachar?
2. Why did Reuben, Gilead, Dan, and Asher stay home?
3. In what kind of war is the Church engaged today?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will advance His Kingdom today.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise:** Psalm 27 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 5:19-23 - The Sin of Meroz

In today's reading we find the war in which Jabin was finally defeated poetically recounted. Jabin held sway over many Canaanite kings and their cities. As God, Himself, brought about Israel's victory, even the stars are poetically said to have fought on Israel's behalf. The forces of these kings came out to do battle with Israel. The battle against Sisera had been fought beside the River Kishon near Mount Tabor. The war ended downriver at Taanach near Megiddo where the Canaanite forces were utterly destroyed and swept away in the raging torrent.

Then the Angel of the LORD curses Meroz for refusing to aid in this war. The language is quite stunning. Whereas Deborah questioned Reuben, Gilead, Dan, and Asher for remaining at home, the Angel curses Meroz. It is unclear exactly where Meroz was, but it seems it was a city nearby the final battle site. Here the crucial battle in the war against Israel's enemies was taking place, as it were, on their doorstep, and the people of Meroz refused to help.

The "Sin of Meroz" has become an expression meaning "apathy" or "an unwillingness to do what one knows is right." Many a Covenanter died rather than engage in this sin by compromising with a civil government's interference in the Church. As modern governments seek to interfere more and more with the Church, restricting our freedom to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to teach the whole counsel of God's Word, let us not be found guilty of the sin of Meroz, simply going along with the tide of culture. Let us, rather, do what we know is right. Let us obey God.

## Questions

1. Where was Jabin finally defeated?
2. What is meant by the "Sin of Meroz"?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray we would remain faithful to the Gospel even if it means enduring hardship for Christ's sake.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise:** Psalm 28 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 5:24-27 - Blessed Jael

In this passage, Deborah sings the praises of Jael, whom God used to bring about Sisera's death. As the prophetess had spoken in Judges 4:9, the LORD had sold Sisera into the hand of a woman. Here, the event recorded in Judges 4:17-21 is recounted poetically.

The Kenites were a people who dwelt in tents. Being the wife of a Kenite, Jael was likely strong and well-practiced at driving tent pegs into hard ground. She put that skill to use, driving a stake through Sisera's head, as God providentially used her to kill this great oppressor of Israel. Though this was a violent deed, it brings honor to Jael for she was God's instrument of deliverance for His people.

When we read the Book of Judges, we may find the violence disturbing, particularly when it is so graphically described as Jael's killing of Sisera is in the Song of Deborah. We must keep in mind that God is in control of all events, providentially overruling them for His glory and the good of His people. Even the most bitter of experiences will work for the good of those who love God (as Romans 8:28 makes clear). In this case, the LORD brought judgment to His enemies and deliverance for His people by means of violent acts, including a war and Sisera's death at Jael's hand.

## Questions

1. Why would Jael have used a tent peg to kill Sisera?
2. What makes Jael "most blessed of women"?
3. How did God use Jael?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will deliver us from our enemies.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise: Psalm 29 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 5:28-31 - False Hope**

God is just and, therefore, His wrath is poured out against sin. Either we will receive the wrath due for our sins in eternity, or, putting our trust in Christ Jesus, we find that He has already paid the penalty. Sometimes, the consequences of our sins fall upon us in this life. For Sisera, the result of his wicked oppression of Israel was the complete destruction of his army and his ignominious death at the hands of Jael. In the end, all of God's enemies will be defeated, and, thus, Sisera becomes a picture for what the wicked can expect. The chapter concludes with a foreshadowing of the final judgment when the wicked will perish, but God's people will receive glory and rest.

However, that was not the end of the earthly consequences for Sisera's sins. At the end of Judges 5, Deborah sings of the mother of Sisera who wonders why her son has not returned yet from the battle. Her servants calm her by speculating that the Canaanite army has been victorious and is simply taking plenty of time dividing the spoils. This is a false hope, and here we see the tragic fact that our sins do not just harm us, they harm those dear to us, as well. So many people excuse sin by saying "I'm not hurting anyone," but this is never true.

## **Questions**

1. Is there such a thing as a harmless sin?
2. How can we hope not to receive God's wrath for our sins? In whom must we trust?
3. How does the end of Judges 5 give us a picture of the judgment to come?

## **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 may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." Judges 5:31

**Praise: Psalm 30 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://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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