

Judges 5 v1 The Song of Deborah. On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: v2 "When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves-- praise the LORD! v3 "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to the LORD, the God of Israel. v4 "O LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. v5 The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai, before the LORD, the God of Israel. v6 "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the roads were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths. v7 Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel. v8 When they chose new gods, war came to the city gates, and not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. v9 My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD! v10 "You who ride on white donkeys, sitting on your saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road, consider v11 the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the righteous acts of the LORD, the righteous acts of his warriors in Israel. "Then the people of the LORD went down to the city gates. v12 'Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, O Barak! Take captive your captives, O son of Abinoam.' v13 "Then the men who were left came down to the nobles; the people of the LORD came to me with the mighty. v14 Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek; Benjamin was with the people who followed you. From Makir captains came down, from Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff. v15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; yes, Issachar was with Barak, rushing after him into the valley. In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. v16 Why did you stay among the campfires to hear the whistling for the flocks? In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. v17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan. And Dan, why did he linger by the ships? Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves. v18 The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the heights of the field. v19 "Kings came, they fought; the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo, but they carried off no silver, no plunder. v20 From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. v21 The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be strong! v22 Then thundered the horses' hoofs-- galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds. v23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD. 'Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.' v24 "Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. v25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. v26 Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. v27 At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell-dead. v28 "Through the window peered Sisera's mother; behind the lattice she cried out, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?' v29 The wisest of her ladies answer her; indeed, she keeps saying to herself, v30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoils: a girl or two for each man, colorful garments as plunder for Sisera, colorful garments embroidered, highly embroidered garments for my neck-- all this as plunder?' v31 "So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years.

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Introduction

Last time we looked at why Gods People fail and how God responds to SAVE THEM. Today I want to look at how we should respond when we are saved.

HOW GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD RESPOND WHEN GOD SAVES THEM.

1. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond IMMEDIATELY.

*Judges 5 v1 The Song of Deborah. **On that day** Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song.*

Every day should be a day to give praise to the LORD. Every day is a miracle from God given to us.

Acts 2:41-47 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. v42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. v43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. v44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. v45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. v46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, v47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Like the early Church, we should be living in an atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving. There should never be a hesitation when we ask for testimonies.

2. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond WILLINGLY.

v2 "When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves-- praise the LORD!

Paul reminds us in *Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

In the book of Revelation, the image John sees is of a celebration of PRAISE AND WONDER. We read in

Revelation 4:9-11 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, v10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: v11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

There is a play on the name of BARAK in this verse that we lose in the English Translation. For the name BARAK means "PRAISE"!! What Deborah is saying is: BARAK LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME

3. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond DEFIANTLY.

v3 "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to the LORD, the God of Israel.

In this verse Deborah is reminding EVERYBODY that the GOD OF ISRAEL is THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. The verse opens with the familiar word, "HEAR"! She is pointing people to the famous passage called "SHEMA ISRAEL" – "HEAR, O ISRAEL" found in

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. v5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. v6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. v7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. v8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. v9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

When believers forget the GOD THAT SAVED THEM, they are on a slippery road to failure. Deborah says: ***I will sing to the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to the LORD, the God of Israel***

4. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond REVERENTLY.

v4 "O LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. v5 The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai, before the LORD, the God of Israel.

Deborah reminds Israel of the ENCOUNTER between MOSES and YAHWEH on Mount Sinai when YAHWEH gave them the Ten Commandments in Exodus chapter 19.

Exodus 19:16-18 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. v17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. v18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently,

I am also reminded of the Transfiguration of JESUS in .

*Matthew 17:1-8 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. v2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. v3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. v4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." v5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" v6 **When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.** v7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." v8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.*

5. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond NOTWITHSTANDING.

v6 "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the roads were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths. v7 Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel. v8 When they chose new gods, war came to the city gates, and not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. v9 My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD! v10 "You who ride on white donkeys, sitting on your saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road, consider v11 the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the righteous acts of the LORD, the righteous acts of his warriors in Israel. "Then the people of the LORD went down to the city gates.

These verses describe the conditions that faced Israel before Deborah won the victory.

WE SHOULD PRAISE, NOTWITHSTANDING:

- 1 Unsafe roads – v6
- 2 Unsafe TownS – normal life was not possible v7
- 3 False religion – v8
- 4 WAR – v8
- 5 No Army – v8

NOTWITHSTANDING all these things they are called to Worship

- 1 PRAISE the LORD – v9
- 2 SINGING – v11
- 3 RECITING the *righteous acts of the LORD* – v11

6. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond TIMEOUSLY.

v12 'Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, O Barak! Take captive your captives, O son of Abinoam.'

As if saying it once is not enough Deborah repeats the word FOUR TIMES

“WAKE UP”!

We find the same message in Paul's letter

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, v2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. v3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. v4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. v5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. v6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. v7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. v8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. v9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. v10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. v11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

7. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond COMMUNALLY.

v13 "Then the men who were left came down to the nobles; the people of the LORD came to me with the mighty. v14 Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek; Benjamin was with the people who followed you. From Makir captains came down, from Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff. v15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; yes, Issachar was with Barak, rushing after him into the valley. In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. v16 Why did you stay among the campfires to hear the whistling for the flocks? In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. v17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan. And Dan, why did he linger by the ships? Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves. v18 The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the heights of the field.

Here Deborah mentions those who helped in the battle, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO DID NOTHING.

The Bible is full of lists of people who served the Lord. Many names only appear in that list, and we don't know anything about these people. The encouraging thing is that while we may not know who these people are, GOD KNOWS THEM BY NAME.

But don't forget, HE also knows the names of those that did nothing.

8. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond HUMBLY.

v19 "Kings came, they fought; the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo, but they carried off no silver, no plunder. v20 From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. v21 The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be strong! v22 Then thundered the horses' hoofs-- galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds.

These verses remind us that, THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S.

Deborah and Barak were victorious because GOD CAUSED THE ENEMY TO GET STUCK IN THE MUD.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO GIVE ALL THE GLORY TO GOD!!!

9. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond SPECIFICALLY.

v23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD. 'Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.' v24 "Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. v25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. v26 Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. v27 At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell-dead. v28 "Through the window peered Sisera's mother; behind the lattice she cried out, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?' v29 The wisest of her ladies answer her; indeed, she keeps saying to herself, v30 'Are they not finding and

dividing the spoils: a girl or two for each man, colorful garments as plunder for Sisera, colorful garments embroidered, highly embroidered garments for my neck--all this as plunder?'

Here Deborah mentions two things specifically, MEROZ and Jael.

MEROZ was a PLACE. - *This city of Meroz seems to have been, at this time, a place of considerable importance, since something great was expected from it; but probably, after the angel of the Lord had pronounced this curse, it dwindled and like the fig-tree which Christ cursed, withered away; so that we never read of it after this in Scripture.*

JAEL was a PERSON. – A foreigner who killed Israel's enemy. You would have thought that her name meant something significant because it contains the word "EL - God". However, her name means "Mountain-goat". Not the most flattering, yet a person GOD USED TO ACHIEVE A GREAT VICTORY. Matthew Henry writes, "Though He needs no human help, yet he is pleased to accept the services of those who improve their talents to advance his cause."

10. When GOD saves, God's PEOPLE should respond DEVOTEDLY.

v31 "So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years.

Deborah ends her song with the desire of GOD HEART.

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY

CONCLUSION

Deborah would play an incredible role in the history of Israel and has gone on to become one of the most influential women in all of Scripture. However, it is not Deborah or Barak, or Jael who deserves glory or praise. They are not worshipped because they are not the ultimate heroes of this story or the ultimate saviours of Israel. That role is reserved for God and God alone, before whom "the mountains quaked at the presence of the Lord"

GOD HAS SAVED US THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST

HOW DO WE RESPOND?