

Judges 5 The Song of Deborah and Barak

Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying, 2 “For the leaders leading in Israel,

For the people volunteering, Bless the LORD 3 Hear, you kings; listen, you dignitaries! I myself—to the LORD, I myself will sing, I will sing praise to the LORD, the God of Israel!

4 LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, The clouds also dripped water. 5 The mountains flowed with water at the presence of the LORD, This Sinai, at the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel.

6 “In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, In the days of Jael, the roads were deserted, And travelers went by roundabout ways. 7 The peasantry came to an end, they came to an end in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Until I arose, a mother in Israel. 8 New gods were chosen; Then war was in the gates. Not a shield or a spear was seen Among forty thousand in Israel.

9 My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel, The volunteers among the people; Bless the LORD! 10 You who ride on white donkeys, You who sit on rich carpets, And you who travel on the road shout in praise!

11 At the sound of those who distribute water among the watering places, There they will recount the righteous deeds of the LORD, The righteous deeds for His peasantry in Israel. Then the people of the LORD went down to the gates.

12 “Awake, awake, Deborah; Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and lead away your captives, son of Abinoam. 13 Then survivors came down to the nobles; The people of the LORD came down to me as warriors.

14 From Ephraim those whose root is in Amalek came down, Following you, Benjamin, with your peoples;

From Machir commanders came down, And from Zebulun those who wield the staff of office.

15 And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah;

As was Issachar, so was Barak; Into the valley they rushed at his heels; Among the divisions of Reuben

There were great determinations of heart. 16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the piping for the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead remained across the Jordan; And why did Dan stay on ships? Asher sat at the seashore,

And remained by its landings. 18 Zebulun was a people who risked their lives, And Naphtali too, on the high places of the field. 19 “The kings came and fought; Then the kings of Canaan fought At Taanach near the waters of Megiddo; They took no plunder in silver.

20 The stars fought from heaven, From their paths they fought against Sisera. 21 The torrent of Kishon swept them away, The ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. My soul, march on with strength!

22 Then the horses' hoofs beat From the galloping, the galloping of his mighty stallions.

23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD, 'Utterly curse its inhabitants, Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD against the warriors.' 24 "Most blessed of women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Most blessed is she of women in the tent.

25 He asked for water, she gave him milk; In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds. 26 She reached out her hand for the tent peg, And her right hand for the workmen's hammer. Then she struck Sisera, she smashed his head; And she shattered and pierced his temple. 27 Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay; Between her feet he bowed, he fell; Where he bowed, there he fell dead.

28 "Out of the window she looked and wailed, The mother of Sisera through the lattice, 'Why does his chariot delay in coming? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots delay?' 29 Her wise princesses would answer her, Indeed she repeats her words to herself, 30 'Are they not finding, are they not dividing the spoils?

A concubine, two concubines for every warrior; To Sisera a spoil of dyed cloth, A spoil of dyed cloth embroidered, Dyed cloth of double embroidery on the neck of the plunderer?' 31 May all Your enemies perish in this way, LORD; But may those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its might."

And the land was at rest for forty years.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. Deborah and Barak decide to write a song about the great victory God had brought them through.
2. Why do people write songs about battles won and lost?
3. This song contained the happenings of the battle, the key leaders involved and the people who volunteered.
4. Why do human beings like singing?
5. Why does God like us singing praises to Him?
6. Going into a battle without God is very different from going into a battle with God!
7. How is God with us and how was He with Israel?
8. When God is with us in the battle everything responds, nature, emotions, creation, heaven, earth, spirits and men.
9. Why are some songs filled with repetitive words?
10. Some of the words of this song depict life in Israel before the battle, in their captivity.
11. Deborah is not apprehensive about declaring her positive role in the victory of the battle.
12. Was she boasting?
13. There is a line in the song about new Gods being chosen - what does this mean?

14. Do you agree with this line 'all of God's deeds are righteous'?
15. It was the Lord who woke up Deborah and Barak to carry out His will in destroying Israel's enemy, bringing them into freedom.
16. All the tribes of Israel are mentioned in the song, but are they all covered in glory?
17. Those who fought with Deborah and Barak are commended as they take back control over Israel's inheritance.
18. What does the line mean 'they had searching of heart'?
19. The army was not distracted by the spoils of war, sings Deborah.
20. How does a person get their soul to march on with strength?
21. Who is the angel of the Lord who cursed?
22. Does God need our help in life's battles?
23. Jael is highly esteemed by Deborah and Barak for killing Sisera.
24. What kind of person can drive a tent peg into someone's temple?
25. Why repeat the words 'beneath her feet, he bowed, he fell, he lay'.
26. What is it to lament?
27. Sisera's mother gets a mention, she can't understand why Sisera is delaying in her return from the battle against Israel.
28. She decides it must be because Sisera is dividing up the spoils of war, but how wrong she was!
29. In the end God's enemies will always perish, good will always overcome bad.
30. All who love God will be blessed, they will know His peace in every battle, they will be led into victory, in God you can never lose!