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| Week #: | 174 | Series: | God's Judgment | Title: | Deborah's Song |
| Scriptures: | | | | | |
| Songs: | Stones | | | | |
| | Raise A Hallelujah | | | | |
| | PRAYER: | Another In the Fire | | | |
| Video: | Judges Song – What's in the Bible #4 (Time- 31:31-33:25) | | | | |

Deborah's Song:

The first four judges in our study have been:

1. Othniel: He was Caleb's nephew. Israel lived in peace after him for 40 years
2. Ehud: He was known for the physical feature of being left-handed. Israel lived in peace after him for 80 years.
3. Shamgar: He was known for killing 600 Philistines with a farm tool, an oxgoad.
4. Deborah: She was a female prophetess, whom God used to free the people from Jabin [Yavin], King of Hazor, and his commander Sisera.

The Bible credits Deborah not only with leading the battle against Sisera that freed Israel from the oppression of the Canaanites, but also with composing and performing a song that celebrates this mighty victory. This song is found in Judges 5.

Many scholars say that this passage is one of the oldest existing Biblical texts. They often date it to the 11th or even 12th century B.C. (1200 B.C.), hundreds of years earlier than the rest of the book of Judges, which is dated to the time of the Babylonian captivity (around 600 B.C.).

If you remember back to when the Israelites were taken out of Egypt and across the Red Sea by God, the Israelites sang a song of praise to God for His triumph over their oppressors. Moses' sister Miriam famously sang (Exodus 15:21):

²¹ "Sing to *ADONAI*, for he is highly exalted! The horse and its rider he threw in the sea!"

David is known for singing praises to God. We can find entire chapters in the book of Psalms where he sang to God. In fact, when He was king, he assigned groups of worshippers at the Tabernacle to continually sing to God of His wondrous acts. We are told that David was a man after God's own heart, and this is why – he praised God continually!

Psalm 71:14

¹⁴ But I, I will always hope and keep adding to your praise.

Psalm 59:16

¹⁶ But as for me, I will sing of your strength; in the morning I will sing aloud of your grace. For you are my fortress, a refuge when I am in trouble.

Psalm 63:2-4

² I used to contemplate you in the sanctuary, seeing your power and glory; ³ for your grace is better than life. My lips will worship you. ⁴ Yes, I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

We often hear the 5th chapter of James quoted when talking of praying for the sick, but it also has a great encouragement about praising God.

James 5:13

¹³ Is someone among you in trouble? He should pray. **Is someone feeling good? He should sing songs of praise.**

We know who we are in God! I Peter tells us, if you need a reminder, and it gives us a reason WHY we should praise God.

I Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are **a chosen people, the King's *Cohanim* [royal priesthood], a holy nation, a people for God to possess!** Why? In order for you to declare the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to ALWAYS praise God! Do you always have praise upon your lips?

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ Through him, therefore, **let us offer God a sacrifice of praise** continually. For this is the natural product of lips that acknowledge his name.

It's difficult to always praise Him, but when you do you find that God can do miraculous things in whatever the situation is that you are facing. It even says something that is a bit shocking, but very interesting: continually praising God is a natural product of lips that acknowledge [or PRAISE] Him! Praising God leads to you being able to praise God CONTINUALLY – through every situation.

Paul sends encouragements to praise God to the churches he wrote to in Ephesus and Colossae.

Ephesians 5:19-20

¹⁹ sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to each other; sing to the Lord and make music in your heart to him; ²⁰ always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Colossians 3:15b-17

^{15b} And be thankful — ¹⁶ let the Word of the Messiah, in all its richness, live in you, as you teach and counsel each other in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude to God in your hearts. ¹⁷ That is, everything you do or say, do in the name of the Lord Yeshua, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Throughout the scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments, we find that encouragement to PRAISE is throughout. Deborah, and the Israelites, had a lot to praise God for after this battle. They didn't even have to fight the battle. When they got to the mountain where Sisera's army was gathered, the Lord had already gone before them and had fought for them. The enemy was there, fighting amongst themselves, and their leader, Sisera, had fled on foot.

You will see in this passage that there are things that are told differently than they appear in the previous accounts. This is a song – so keep that in mind. Just as with poetry, sometimes the lyrics of songs are written more in a figurative fashion than for factual information. (We see this often in David's songs in the Bible, or in more modern times, in Shakespeare's writings or modern song lyrics.)

Judges 5:1-31

On that day D'vorah [Deborah] and Barak the son of Avino'am [Abinoam] sang this song:

² "When leaders in Isra'el dedicate themselves,
and the people volunteer,
you should all bless *ADONAI*.

³ Hear, kings; listen, princes;
I will sing to *ADONAI*!

I will sing praise to *ADONAI*
the God of Isra'el.

⁴ “*ADONAI*, when you went out from Se'ir [Seir],
when you marched out from the field of Edom;
the earth quaked, and the sky shook;
yes, the clouds poured down torrents.

⁵ The mountains melted at the presence of *ADONAI*,
at Sinai, before *ADONAI* the God of Isra'el.

⁶ “In the days of Shamgar the son of 'Anat [Anath],
in the days of Ya'el [Jael], the main roads were deserted;
travelers walked the byways.

⁷ The rulers ceased in Isra'el, they ceased,
until you arose, D'vorah [Deborah],
arose a mother in Isra'el.

⁸ “They chose new gods when war was at the gates.

Was there a shield or spear to be seen
among Isra'el's forty thousand men?

⁹ My heart goes out to Isra'el's leaders
and to those among the people who volunteer.
All of you, bless *ADONAI*.

¹⁰ “You who ride white donkeys,
sitting on soft saddle-blankets,
and you walking on the road,
talk about it!

¹¹ Louder than the sound of archers at the watering-holes
will they sound as they retell
the righteous acts of *ADONAI*,
the righteous acts of his rulers in Isra'el.

“Then *ADONAI*'s people marched down to the gates.

¹² “Awake, awake, D'vorah [Deborah]!
Awake, awake, break into song!
Arise, Barak! Lead away your captives,
son of Avino'am [Abinoam]!

¹³ “Then a remnant of the nobles marched down;
the people of *ADONAI* marched down to me like warriors.

¹⁴ From Efrayim [Ephraim] came those rooted in 'Amalek.
Behind you, Binyamin [Benjamin] is with your peoples.
From Makhir [Machir] the commanders marched down,
and from Z'vulun [Zebulun] those holding the musterer's staff.

¹⁵ The princes of Yissakhar [Issachar] were with D'vorah [Deborah],
Yissakhar [Issachar], along with Barak;
into the valley they rushed forth behind him.
Among the divisions of Re'uven [Reuben]
they made great resolutions in their hearts.

¹⁶ But why did you stay at the pens for the sheep,

and listen to the shepherd's flute playing for the flocks?

Concerning the divisions of Re'uben [Reuben]

there were great searchings of heart.

¹⁷ Gil'ad [Gilead] lives beyond the Yarden [Jordan].

Dan — why does he stay by the ships?

Asher stayed by the shore of the sea,
remaining near its bays.

¹⁸ The people of Z'vulun [Zebulun] risked their lives,
Naftali too, on the open heights.

¹⁹ "Kings came; they fought.

Yes, the kings of Kena'an [Canaan] fought
at Ta'anakh [Taanach], by the waters of Megiddo;
but they took no spoil of silver.

²⁰ They fought from heaven, the stars in their courses;
yes, they fought against Sisra [Sisera].

²¹ The Kishon River swept them away,
that ancient river, the Kishon River.

O my soul, march on with strength!

²² Then the horses' hoofs pounded the ground,
their mighty steeds galloping at full speed.

²³ "'Curse Meroz!' said the angel of *ADONAI*,
'Curse the people living there with a bitter punishment
for not coming to help *ADONAI*,
to help *ADONAI* against the mighty warriors.'

²⁴ "Ya'el [Jael] will be blessed more than all women.
The wife of Hever [Heber] the Keini [Kenite]
will be blessed more than any woman in the tent.

²⁵ He asked for water, and she gave him milk;
In an elegant bowl she brought him curds.

²⁶ Then she took a tent peg in her left hand
and a workman's hammer in her right;
with the hammer she struck Sisra [Sisera], pierced his skull,
yes, she shattered and crushed his temple.

²⁷ He sank down at her feet, he fell and lay there;
he sank at her feet, he fell —
where he sank down, there he fell dead.

²⁸ "Sisra's [Sisera's] mother looks out the window;
peering out through the lattice she wonders,
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why are his horses so slow to return?'

²⁹ The wisest of her ladies answer her,
and she repeats it to herself,

³⁰ 'Of course! They're collecting and dividing the spoil —
a girl, two girls for every warrior,
for Sisra [Sisera] booty of dyed clothing,

a plunder of colorfully embroidered garments,
two embroidered scarves for every soldier's neck.'

³¹ "May all your enemies perish like this, *ADONAI*;
but may those who love him be like the sun
going forth in its glory!"

Then the land had rest for forty years.