

OUR GOD'S FAILURES & FAITHFULNESS

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Part 8 — “The Song of Deborah & Barak” — June 29, 2025

Introduction: Here I raise mine ‘Ebenezer’?

This line from the hymn ‘Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing’ is a reference to an event recorded in 1 Sam. 7:12. There, following a battle won against the Philistines, Samuel erected a ‘stone of remembrance’ so that the people would continually recall God’s faithfulness and provision.

Main Point: ‘The Song of Deborah and Barak’ demonstrates the importance of _____ and _____ upon the powerful work of God in our lives.

Judges 5:1-31

Title: “The _____ of Deborah & Barak”

The title is derived from its attribution at the beginning of the chapter (5:1). Although both leading figures are mentioned, the flow of the song makes it clear that Deborah is the primary speaker (5:6-9).

Genre: A Song of _____ & _____

In terms of its content, it should be understood as a song of prayer and praise to the Lord. The song reflects upon all the Lord did to defeat the army of Jabin and Sisera and calls upon Him to continue to bless His people and to destroy His enemies (5:31).

Theme: *The Powerful Work of the Lord to _____ His People*

Although the song makes reference to various people, tribes, and events, it is the Lord who is the primary focus. Praise is directed to Him (5:2-3,9), His power and majesty are extolled (5:4-5), and He is the One credited with ultimate victory (5:11).

Exposition:

- _____ is the proper response of God’s people to His powerful work on their behalf.
 - Deborah states that God’s praises should be declared before both His _____ (5:3) and His _____ (5:10-11). She herself cannot contain her praise when reflecting upon the Lord’s work (5:2,9).
“Bless the Lord”
 - The song is itself a record of God’s deliverance of Israel and is intended to be passed down so that _____ generations might recall His faithfulness.
- The Lord works powerfully both _____ and _____ His people to accomplish His purposes.
 - The Lord raised up _____ for the people. Deborah called the people back to the worship of the Lord and Barak led them to military victory.
Judges 5:7-8—⁷ The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.
⁸ When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?
Judges 5:12b-13—Arise, Barak, lead away your captives, O son of Abinoam.¹³ Then down marched the remnant of the noble; the people of the Lord marched down for me against the mighty.
 - The Lord _____ in the people themselves so that they rose up against their oppressors.
Judges 5:2—That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!
Judges 5:9,18—⁹ My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people...
¹⁸ Zebulun is a people who risked their lives to the death; Naphtali, too, on the heights of the field.
- The Lord’s victory over His enemies occurs in both the supernatural and natural _____.
 - It is the Lord, not Baal, who has shown that He is the all-powerful God of the storm.
Judges 5:4-5—⁴ “Lord, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the region of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens dropped, yes, the clouds dropped water. ⁵ The mountains quaked before the Lord, even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.

- The Lord’s heavenly _____ warred against the forces of evil even as Israel fought with Jabin’s forces.
Judges 5:19-20—¹⁹ “The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. ²⁰ From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.
- It is possible that an actual storm sent by the Lord was a decisive factor in the battle with Sisera’s chariots.
Judges 5:21—The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might!

4. The Lord’s people can _____ in His triumph over His enemies.

- Some missed out on this glory because they passively or actively worked _____ the Lord.
5:16b-17, 23—Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.¹⁷ Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan; and Dan, why did he stay with the ships? Asher sat still at the coast of the sea, staying by his landings...²³ “Curse Meroz, says the angel of the Lord, curse its inhabitants thoroughly, because they did not come to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.
- Jael’s killing of Sisera is intended as a humiliation of the ‘great’ warrior.
Judges 5:26-27—²⁶ She sent her hand to the tent peg and her right hand to the workmen’s mallet; she struck Sisera; she crushed his head; she shattered and pierced his temple. ²⁷ Between her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; between her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead.
- The wisdom and worthiness of Deborah as a ‘mother’ in Israel contrasts with the _____ and _____ of Sisera’s mother and her attendants.
Judges 5:29-30—²⁹ Her wisest princesses answer, indeed, she answers herself, ³⁰ ‘Have they not found and divided the spoil?—A womb or two for every man; spoil of dyed materials for Sisera, spoil of dyed materials embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for the neck as spoil?’
- The concluding verse is intended both as a blessing and an imprecation.
Judges 5:31—“So may all your enemies perish, O Lord! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.”

Applying the Text

1. The song ultimately points us to the _____, looking back on God’s foundational promise to rescue His people and forward towards the means by which that rescue would occur.

Gen. 3:15—I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise [crush] his heel.”

Luke 1:41b-43—And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

2. We should continually recall and reflect upon the _____ of God in our lives!

Col. 3:16-17—¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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Main Point: ‘The Song of Deborah and Barak’ demonstrates the importance of recalling and reflecting upon the powerful work of God in our lives.

Judges 5:1-31

Title: “*The Song of Deborah & Barak*”

The title is derived from its attribution at the beginning of the chapter (5:1). Although both leading figures are mentioned, the flow of the song makes it clear that Deborah is the primary speaker (5:6-9).

Genre: *A Song of Worship & Praise*

In terms of its content, it should be understood as a song of prayer and praise to the Lord. The song reflects upon all the Lord did to defeat the army of Jabin and Sisera and calls upon Him to continue to bless His people and to destroy His enemies (5:31).

Theme: *The Powerful Work of the Lord to Deliver His People*

Although the song makes reference to various people, tribes, and events, it is the Lord who is the primary focus. Praise is directed to Him (5:2-3,9), His power and majesty are extolled (5:4-5), and He is the One credited with ultimate victory (5:11).

Exposition:

1. **Worship is the proper response of God’s people to His powerful work on their behalf.**

- Deborah declares that praise should be sung to the Lord before both His enemies (5:3) and His people (5:10-11). She herself cannot contain her praise when reflecting upon the Lord’s work (5:2,9).

“Bless the Lord”

- The entire song itself is a record of God’s rescue of His people that is intended to be passed down so that future generations might recall His faithfulness.

2. **The Lord works powerfully both in and through His people to accomplish His purposes.**

- The Lord raised up leaders for the people. Deborah called the people back to the worship of the Lord and Barak led them to military victory.

Judges 5:7-8—⁷ The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.

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- It is the Lord, not Baal, who has shown that He is the all-powerful God of the storm.

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- The wisdom and worthiness of Deborah as a ‘mother’ in Israel contrasts with the **folly** and **evil** of Sisera’s mother and her attendants.
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2. We should continually recall and reflect upon the **work of God in our lives!**

Col. 3:16-17—¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.