

LIFE IN THE SIN CYCLE

(A Study in the Book of Judges)

Pembroke Bible Chapel

2011 October 30

Judges Message #6

Speaker: Mark Floyd

THE SONG OF DEBORAH & BARAK

(Judges 5)

PRAISE FOR THE GOD OF SINAI (2-5)

- God is glorified when people and their leaders willingly offer themselves to do His will (2-3; *Romans 12:1*).
- The God who revealed Himself to Israel at Mount Sinai marched against their enemies (4-5; *Exodus 19:16-18*).

ISRAEL'S PRIOR STATE (6-8)

- the people had turned to false gods, leading to disunity and inability to defend themselves against their enemies (8; *2:14*).
- their conquered state had produced a drastic change in lifestyle, including loss of control of their trade routes (6-7; *4:3*).

ISRAEL UNITES FOR BATTLE (9-18)

- many of Israel's tribes united with their leaders (13-15,18);
 - principally Zebulun and Naphtali (18; *4:6,10*)
 - Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir (Mannesseh) and Issachar
- some of Israel did not assist (15-17);
 - Reuben, Gilead (Gad), Dan, Asher and Meroz (23).

THE LORD'S VICTORY (19-31)

- God caused a great cloudburst to flash flood the Kishon River, sweeping away most of Sisera's army (4-5; *19-21; 4:15*).
- a remnant of Sisera's army fled, pursued by Barak (22; *4:16*).
- Jael killed Sisera, the enemy's commander (24-30; *4:17-22*).
- thus, the enemies of the Lord perish; those who love Him will live to bear His glory (31; *Dan 12:3; Mal 4:2; Mt 13:43; Jn 3:16; Rev 1:16*).

APPLICATION

In the Judges 4-5, we've observed Israel in two contrasting states. When they turned from God to adore the things of the surrounding world, they lost their unity and ability to defend themselves against their enemies. They fell into a state of forfeited blessing and severe oppression. When they trusted God and His Word, they rallied together as one – God gave them triumph over their enemies and they returned to a state of blessing, peace and rest.

We face a similar contrast of destinies today. The human race is in a spiritual battle. The enemy is sin, promoted by Satan. If we reject God, the enemy will conquer us and we will lose the blessings God wants us to have. Relationships will be destroyed as the enemy masters us. If we turn to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, He will miraculously give us victory. Sin and Satan will lose their power over us and give way to a life characterized by God's blessing of joy, peace and rest in Jesus Christ. Wonderful new relationships will spring up and old, damaged ones will be healed. We will experience incredible unity as we stand in faith against the enemy.

God's Word is a powerful, uniting force. When we (as a group) trust in what God says, we become united in a cause to live victoriously in Jesus Christ. When sin and disunity begin to creep in, be warned that it's time to renew our faith in the only One that can save us from pending defeat and oppression.

“...stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel...” (Philippians 1:27)