

**Salvation Must
Be Sung!**

Judges 5:1-31

Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day: “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD! “Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the LORD I will sing; I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

“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.

The mountains quaked before the LORD, even Sinai before the LORD, the God of Israel “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways. The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?

My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD. “Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit on rich carpets and you who walk by the way. To the sound of musicians at the watering places, there they repeat the righteous triumphs of the LORD, the righteous triumphs of his villagers in Israel. “Then down to the gates marched the people of the LORD. “Awake, awake, Deborah!

Awake, awake, break out in a song! Arise, Barak, lead away your captives, O son of Abinoam. Then down marched the remnant of the noble; the people of the LORD marched down for me against the mighty. From Ephraim their root they marched down into the valley, following you, Benjamin, with your kinsmen; from Machir marched down the commanders, and from Zebulun those who bear the lieutenant's staff; the princes of Issachar came with Deborah, and

Issachar faithful to Barak; into the valley they rushed at his heels. Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart. Why did you sit still among the sheepfolds, to hear the whistling for the flocks? Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart. 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. Zebulun is a people who risked their lives to

the death; Naphtali, too, on the heights of the field. “The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might! “Then loud beat the horses’ hoofs with the galloping, galloping of his steeds.

“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. “Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed. He asked for water and she gave him milk; she brought him curds in a noble’s bowl. 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. Between her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; between her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead.

“Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera wailed through the lattice: ‘Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?’ Her wisest princesses answer, indeed, she answers herself, ‘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?’

“So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.”

And the land had rest for forty years.

Judges 5:1

Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of
Abinoam on that day:

Exodus 15:1

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang
this song to the LORD, saying,

We're here to be worshippers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of him. God never meant it to be so. God meant that a convert should learn to be a worshiper, and after that he can learn to be a worker. The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it.

- A. W. Tozer

Judges 5:2

**“That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves
willingly, bless the LORD! “Hear, O
kings; give ear, O princes; to the LORD I
will sing; I will make melody to the
LORD, the God of Israel.**

Judges 5:4-5

“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.

The mountains quaked before the LORD,
even Sinai before the LORD, the God of
Israel.

Judges 4:4-5

Now **Deborah**, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and **the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.**

We can, and should, live our lives and order our memories not only historically but theologically—not simply recollecting what happened, or what we did, but searching out what God was doing. This keeps us from over-honoring ourselves in success, or despairing in our struggles. Part of the key to enjoying peace is to be continually praising the Lord for what he has done, and is doing, for us, because the story we tell of our lives is not so much about us, as about him.

- Tim Keller

Judges 4:6-7

She sent and **summoned Barak** the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “**Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand’?**”

Judges 4:8

Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.”

Psalm 68:7

O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness

Habakkuk 3:5

Before him went pestilence, and plague
followed at his heels.

Yahweh is not set in historical
concrete at Sinai; rather the One of
Sinai is mobile, marching forth again
and again to rescue his flock. And
when he does, creation comes
unglued! Earth trembles, clouds pour
rain mountains shake.

- Dale Ralph Davis

Judges 5:6

In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were
abandoned, and travelers kept to the
byways. The villagers ceased in Israel;

Judges 5:7
until I arose;
I, Deborah, arose as **a mother in Israel.**

Romans 16:13
Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his
mother, who has been **a mother to me as well.**

Judges 5:9

My heart goes out to the
commanders of Israel
who offered themselves
willingly among the people.
Bless the LORD.

Judges 5:10-11

Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,
you who sit on rich carpets
and you who walk by the way.

To the **sound of musicians** at the watering
places,

there they **repeat the righteous
triumphs of the LORD,**
the righteous triumphs of his villagers in
Israel.

Our songs are not the cause of our loss of the sense of God's greatness, though songs are surprisingly influential. No, our songs reflect this loss. Singing God-centered hymns is desirable, but more than that is needed. We sing what we feel, what we believe. When once we rediscover the greatness of God, we will sing it. Our song will echo our conviction.

- Tom Wells

Judges 5:13-15

Then down marched the remnant of the noble;
the **people of the LORD** marched down for me
against the mighty. From **Ephraim** their root they
marched down into the valley, following you,
Benjamin, with your kinsmen; from **Machir**
marched down the commanders, and from
Zebulun those who bear the lieutenant's staff;
the princes of **Issachar** came with Deborah, and
Issachar faithful to Barak; into the valley they
rushed at his heels.

Judges 5:15-17

Among the clans of Reuben

there were great searchings of heart.

Why did you sit still among the sheepfolds, to hear the whistling for the flocks? Among the clans of Reuben **there were great searchings of heart.** 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.

*Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love*

-from “Come Thou Fount”

Judges 5:19-21

“The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. From heaven **the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.** The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might!

Judges 4:15

And the **LORD** routed **Sisera** and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.

Judges 5:24

**“Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
of tent-dwelling women most
blessed.**

Judges 5:25-26

He asked for water and she gave him milk;
she brought him curds in a noble's bowl.
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.

Judges 5:27

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 death of Sisera reminds us that he met his nemesis just when he thought he was safe. And the echo from the New Testament is that “the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. It reminds us that whether through death or Christ’s return we all have an appointment to keep with God; and we cannot put it into our diaries. The timing belongs to God alone.

- David Jackman

Judges 5:28-30

“Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera wailed through the lattice: ‘Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?’ Her wisest princesses answer, indeed, she answers herself, ‘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?’

Judges 5:31

““So may all your enemies perish, O LORD!
But your friends be like the sun as he rises
in his might.”

And the land had rest for forty years.

Deborah sang concerning the overthrow of Israel's enemies, and the deliverance vouchsafed to the tribes: we have a far richer theme for music; we have been delivered from worse enemies, and saved by a greater salvation. Let our gratitude be deeper; let our song be more jubilant.

- Charles Spurgeon