

## A SONG OF CELEBRATION

--JUDGES 5:1-31—

### INTRODUCTION:

Judges 5 is something completely different from the rest of the book of Judges. It is poetry, the rest of the book is prose, a song of celebration instead of narrative. The history and the events surrounding the judgeship of Barak was told to us in Judges 4. Now different from the rest of the book we come to a time of reflection and celebration, and that comes to us in the form of a song. Since no other chapter is like this in the book of Judges, I am going to treat this chapter differently. Instead of going through it verse by verse, I am going to look at three sides of it over the next three weeks. This morning we are going to look at it from the side of singing, then from the side of mothers, and finally from the side of mavericks. This morning we will join Deborah and Barak as they sing this song of celebration.

#### I. A SURPRISE IN JUDGES (Judges 5:1-31)

- a. The book of Judges is not an easy \_\_\_\_\_. Israel was going through a rough patch during the period of the judges.
- b. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ history that repeats itself over and over.

#### II. WHY A SONG? (Judges 5:1-31)

- a. Why a song? The answer to that question is partially found in verse 1, the reason for the song is because of what happened on the “\_\_\_\_\_” to which verse 1 refers.
- b. Then one day, “*on that day...*” (Judges 5:1b, NASB95) something happened that \_\_\_\_\_ everything. (Exodus 15:1; Revelation 5:9-10)

#### III. THEMES OF THE SONG (Judges 5:1-31)

- a. There are several \_\_\_\_\_ that make up the different stanzas of this song.

- b. Some themes stand out more prominently than others, some are just sub-themes to the overarching theme of giving \_\_\_\_\_ to God for His deliverance.

#### ***LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS*** (Judges 5:2; 5:9)

- a. The first theme that we come to and that is seen throughout the song is the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ who led and the people, and the volunteers who responded to the leadership.
- b. Then one day there were leaders—people of strength and character that God \_\_\_\_\_ up, like Deborah and Barak—leaders who knew that the issue could no longer be avoided.

#### ***GOD THE WARRIOR*** (Judges 5:4-5)

- a. Good \_\_\_\_\_ are essential to the life of God’s people. So are those who willingly offer themselves to support the leaders, but the main theme is God.
- b. God came like a mighty \_\_\_\_\_ marching into battle. (Exodus 15:3-6)
- c. “***The LORD is a \_\_\_\_\_***” (Exodus 15:3a, NASB95) How do you feel about that description of God?
- d. This is how it was for Barak; the enemy was too strong; they had no hope against Sisera and his 900 chariots unless \_\_\_\_\_ the warrior went before them and fought for them. He did and that is what they sing about in this chapter.

#### ***GOD THE LORD OF NATURE*** (Judges 5:4; 5:19-21)

- a. God the warrior is the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ and look at how God fought for the Israelites.
- b. What took place here was no accident, this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord of creation who literally moved heaven and earth to save and deliver His people.

#### ***DISAPPOINTMENT*** (Judges 5:13-17, 23)

- a. Those who did not play their \_\_\_\_\_ led to a sense of disappointment and betrayal.
- b. The harshest \_\_\_\_\_ of all is against Meroz.

- c. All of Israel had cause to praise God and give thanks for His deliverance, but not all could \_\_\_\_\_.

### CONCLUSION:

Have you ever considered the importance of singing in the Bible? Both the Old and New Testament are punctuated with songs. Psalms the largest book of the whole Bible, is a book of 150 songs. The hymn book of the Old Testament people of God, singing is central and prominent in the Bible.

It has also been a part of Christianity for more than 2000 years. Our Scripture reading from Ephesians 5 this morning said that singing God's praises is a sign of being filled with the Spirit. Of all other major world religions, only Christianity has congregational singing at its heart.

The song we began looking at today in Judges 5 has several things to teach us about the nature or the characteristics of a Biblical song. First, it is a natural and proper response to salvation. Second, such singing is God-centered. Third, the song thanks God for His servants, leaders who lead and volunteers who stand with them. Fourth, it acknowledges the reality of human failure as seen in the case of Meroz and its inhabitants. Fifth, it gives expression to the full range of human emotions, from jubilation to disappointment and questioning to righteous anger. These strong feelings are theologically grounded and directed to God as the primary audience and witness of the song. We need strong singing like this in the church today and I thank God for our music team and the great job that they do.

The song of Judges 5 reminds us that things are never so grim that there can't be victory with God. Remember this is the song of a people who were hopeless for 20 years. This song also reminds us that such singing is not just a gift, but a choice. Verse 3 says, "*I—to the LORD, I will sing*" (Judges 5:3a, NASB95) So choose to sing. If Israel had reason to praise God for delivering them, how much more reason do we have who have received God's great salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. That truth should set your heart to singing.