

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Willing Hearts

Judges 5:1-31
Lesson 5

Introduction

When they wanted to celebrate special occasions, the Jewish people often expressed themselves in song. The writer shifts from narrative to joyful poetry. Poetry is meant to engage our emotions and see through the eyes of the author. Future generations might forget what the history books said, but they were not likely to forget a song that recounts their joy.

Through Deborah's song we see the events of chapter 4 from another angle. We are given a glimpse behind the scenes where God does His best work. We peer into the everyday life of the people who had been sold under slavery. It is revealed who was willing and not willing to fight. See first-hand how the Lord went before them, using the mighty river, and even the stars to defeat the enemy. In the hands of God, two willing women and a tent peg became mighty instruments used for His purpose.

God looks for those who have a willing heart to serve Him in the battle. When God possesses our hearts, we will offer ourselves willingly and freely, knowing the battle belongs to the Lord!



LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: Keep in mind that Deborah and Barak are eye-witnesses of all that God did. Read Hebrews 11:32-35 to see how God honored Barak's faith.

Judges 5:1-11

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

2 "When leaders lead in Israel,
When the people willingly offer themselves,
Bless the Lord!

3 "Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes!
I, even I, will sing to the Lord;
I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.

4 Lord, when You went out from Seir,
When You marched from the field of Edom,
The earth trembled and the heavens poured,
The clouds also poured water;

5 The mountains gushed before the Lord,
This Sinai, before the Lord God of Israel.

6 "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
In the days of Jael,
The highways were deserted,
And the travelers walked along the byways.

7 Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel,
Until I, Deborah, arose,
Arose a mother in Israel.

8 They chose new gods;
Then there was war in the gates;
Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

9 My heart is with the rulers of Israel
Who offered themselves willingly with the people.
Bless the Lord!

10 "Speak, you who ride on white donkeys,
Who sit in judges' attire,
And who walk along the road.

11 Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places,
There they shall recount the righteous acts of the Lord,
The righteous acts for His villagers in Israel;
Then the people of the Lord shall go down to the gates.



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Judges 5:12-23

12 "Awake, awake, Deborah!
Awake, awake, sing a song!
Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away,
O son of Abinoam!

13 "Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles;
The Lord came down for me against the mighty.

14 From Ephraim were those whose roots were in Amalek.
After you, Benjamin, with your peoples,
From Machir rulers came down,
And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff.

15 And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah;
As Issachar, so was Barak
Sent into the valley under his command;
Among the divisions of Reuben
There were great resolves of heart.

16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds,
To hear the pipings for the flocks?
The divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan,
And why did Dan remain on ships?
Asher continued at the seashore,
And stayed by his inlets.

18 Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death,
Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

19 "The kings came and fought,
Then the kings of Canaan fought
In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo;
They took no spoils of silver.

20 They fought from the heavens;
The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.

21 The torrent of Kishon swept them away,
That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon.

O my soul, march on in strength!

22 Then the horses' hooves pounded,
The galloping, galloping of his steeds.

23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the Lord,
'Curse its inhabitants bitterly,
Because they did not come to the help of the Lord,
To the help of the Lord against the mighty.'



Judges 5:24-27

24 "Most blessed among women is Jael,
The wife of Heber the Kenite;
Blessed is she among women in tents.
25 He asked for water, she gave milk;
She brought out cream in a lordly bowl.
26 She stretched her hand to the tent peg,
Her right hand to the workmen's hammer;
She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head,
She split and struck through his temple.
27 At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still;
At her feet he sank, he fell;
Where he sank, there he fell dead.



Judges 5:28-31

28 "The mother of Sisera looked through the window,
And cried out through the lattice,
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?'
29 Her wisest ladies answered her,
Yes, she answered herself,
30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil:
To every man a girl or two;
For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments,
Plunder of garments embroidered and dyed,
Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?'

31 "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O Lord!
But let those who love Him be like the sun
When it comes out in full strength."

So the land had rest for forty years.



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BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 5:1-11 _____

Judges 5:12-23 _____

Judges 5:24–27 _____

Judges 5:28-31 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 5:1–11 _____

Judges 5:12-23 _____

Judges 5:24–27 _____

Judges 5:28-31 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

What did God say? Judges. 4:6-7

What kind of heart is God looking for?

What was the condition of Israel before the battle?

List some of the things that the Lord used to conquer the enemy.

What words or phrases are repeated?

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 5:1-11 _____
Judges 5:12-23 _____
Judges 5:24-27 _____
Judges 5:28-31 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

"When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves,
Bless the Lord! Judges 5:2

Radiating His Truth . . .

What a beautiful thing it is to see a willing heart rushing into battle at the heels of King Jesus, despising life to the point of death to bring glory to Him! -Gary Inrig

