


Judges: Deborah 4:1-5:31

YouTube channel: [Chris Nazarian](#)

For the previous session follow this link to YouTube:  Judges: Othniel

Previously...

- Othniel
 - Gives concrete reality to the downward spiral
 - Serves as the comparison for the rest of the judges

- Ehud
 - Disability does not disqualify us
 - Brutality, treachery, and cunning (Jael)

Deborah: a prophetess who judges

- Story of Deborah 4:1-23
 - Song of Deborah 5:1-31
-
- Satirization of kingship
 - Jabin “to have perception or knowledge”
 - Barak “lightning”
 - As the story progresses, does Jabin seem to know what’s going on? Does Barak seem quick to strike like lightning?
-
- Who’s the judge?
 - Deborah: a prophetess who judges (judicial sense)
 - Barak: a military commander who goes to battle
 - Jael: a wife who subdues Israel’s enemy

The Downward Spiral Intensifies

- Humiliation of men
 - Jabin: the perceptive king who doesn't see defeat coming
 - Barak: military champion who does nothing
 - Sisera: military commander who gets tricked by a woman

- Tribal disunity
 - Deborah chastise tribes that didn't help (5:15-17)
 - Reuben, Gilead, Asher, Dan
 - Tribes that did not drive out the inhabitants

Connections

- Inter-story connections: Ehud to Deborah to Gideon
 - Ehud to Deborah
 - hill country of Ephraim (3:27; 4:5)
 - Shamgar (3:31; 5:6)
 - mistaken death of foreign ruler (3:24-25; 5:30)

 - Deborah to Gideon
 - prophets mentioned (4:5; 6:8)
 - under a tree (4:5; 6:11)
 - verb usage (3:21; 3:27; 4:21; 6:34)

Practical Application

- Who is ordering the events in the Deborah story?
 - “Yahweh sold them into the hand of King Jabin...” (4:2)
 - “Yahweh will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman...” (4:9)
 - “Yahweh threw Sisera and all his chariots into a panic...” (4:15)
 - “So on that day Yahweh subdued King Jabin...” (4:23)

- Who is the real deliverer?
 - In your life?
 - In our church?
 - In our world?

- We have the choice of Gideon to make
 - Will Yahweh be our king?
 - Will we seek concrete security in things we can control, like Gideon?
 - Will we trust in Yahweh, leaving our lives in his hands?

What we learned

- Yahweh is king in Israel
 - 4:2 and 4:23
 - Yahweh is sovereign through it all
 - Yahweh orders the events of history
- When the downward spiral intensifies, Yahweh is seen as sovereign and people are seen as clueless

Next time...

The character stories continue: Gideon

Read:

- Gideon's story: 6:1 - 8:35

Think about:

- Gideon's story is the focal point of Judges, this is where Yahweh is rejected
- Does Gideon's use of the fleece show trust in Yahweh or a way to control Yahweh? (6:36-40)

