

SPEAKING TOMORROW (SUNDAY AUG 7)

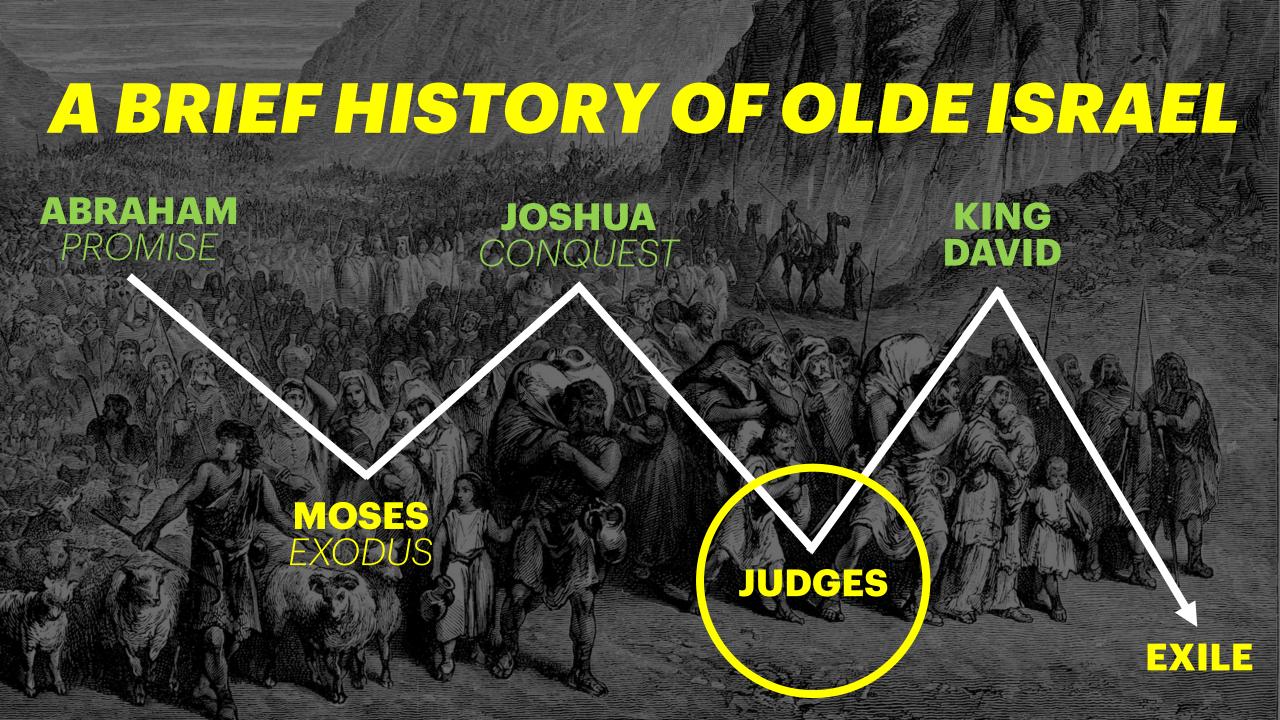


DR JOHN ANDREWS

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Let's Pray





Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110.

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel.

Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

The Lord raised up judges who saved them out of the hands of the raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods.

JUDGES 2:8-17





JUDGES 4: MEET THE CAST



JABIN THE TYRANT
King of Canaan
who reigned in Hazor.

SISERA THE COMMANDER

Head of Jabin's army, based in Harosheth Haggoyim.

JUDGES 4: MEET THE CAST



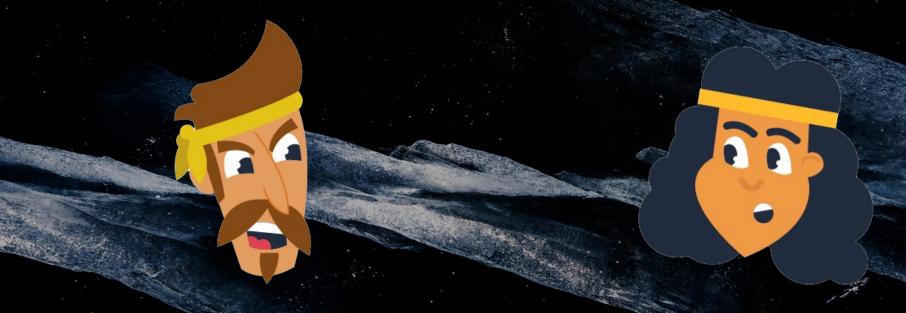
DEBORAH THE PROPHET

The wife of Lappidoth. She was leading Israel as Judge at that time.

BARAK THE WARRIOR

The son of Abinoam, from Kedesh in Naphtali.

JUDGES 4: MEET THE CAST



HEBER THE KENITE

Had an alliance with King Jabin. A distant descendent of Moses' family.

JAEL THE JUST

Heber's wife.
Quite handy
with a hammer.

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. 2 So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim.

3 Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. 4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.



5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you:

'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.

7 I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands."

8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

9 "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honour will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.



11 (Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.)

12 When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men

GOIII

and his <u>nine hundred chariots</u> fitted with iron.

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?" So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him.

JUDGES 5:20-21 From the heavens the stars fought against Sisera ... The river Kishon swept them away.

15 At Barak's advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

16 Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left (but Sisera).

17 Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.



- 18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.
- 19 "I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water." She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.
- 20 "Stand in the doorway of the tent," he told her. "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.'"
- 21 But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

22 Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for." So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.



23 On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites.

24 And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

- 1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:
- 2 "When the princes in Israel take the lead, When the people willingly offer themselves Praise the Lord!
- 3 "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers!
 I, even I, will sing to the Lord;
 I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song..."

HOMEWORK: READ THE REST OF JUDGES 5

IN A TIME OF LAWLESSNESS, WHEN EVIL IS OVERTAKING THE LAND, GOD IS LOOKING FOR

- 1. WORTHY LEADERS
 AND
- 2. WILLING FOLLOWERS

IN A TIME OF LAWLESSNESS, WHEN EVIL IS OVERTAKING THE LAND, GOD IS LOOKING FOR

1. WORTHY LEADERS ...LET'S START WITH SOME UNWORTHY EXAMPLES

JABIN & SISERA

1. LEADING BY THE MIGHT OF MAN, NOT GOD

4:3 "He had 900 chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for 20 years."

PS 20:7 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."

2. LEADING PEOPLE AWAY FROM GOD

4:17 ... There was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber.

THE OTHER ISRAELITES

- 4:1 "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead."
- 1. NO GRATITUDE. Turned away from God ASAP.
- 2. NO SELF-LEADERSHIP. Reliant on others to lead them.
- 3. NO SELF-CONTROL. Carnal, defaulting to sinful nature.

IN A TIME OF LAWLESSNESS,
WHEN EVIL IS OVERTAKING THE LAND,
GOD IS LOOKING FOR

1. WORTHY LEADERS
... SO WHAT MAKES
ALEADER WORTHY?



1. LEADING IN A DIFFICULT TIME

A woman leading in a male-dominated society!
Likely meant as an act of humiliation for Jews.
"Not about equality, not about superiority.
It's about who God chooses to use. – pKG"

2. LEADING WITH WISDOM

4:5 "The Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided."



3. LEADING AS GOD LEADS HER

4:4 "Deborah, a prophet ..."

4:6 "She sent for Barak and said to him:

'The LORD the God of Israel commands you ...'"

4. LEADING BY FAITH

4:7 "I will lead Sisera, his chariots and troops to the Kishon River, and give him into your hands."



5. LEADING FROM THE FRONT

- 4:9 "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah.
- 5:9 "My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people."

6. LEADING WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD

- 5:2 "When the leaders take the lead, praise the Lord!"
- 5:7 "Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.



BARAK IS A POLARISING FIGURE

- 4:8 Barak said to Deborah,
 "If you go with me, I will go;
 but if you don't go with me, I won't go."
- >> Does this reflect loyalty or cowardice?



>> Does this reflect <u>loyalty</u> or <u>cowardice</u>?

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE!

HEB 11:32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice ... whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.



- 1. LED BY THE (WO)MAN OF GOD
 4:8 Barak said to Deborah, "If you go with me,
 I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."
- 2. LED BY THE PRESENCE OF GOD

 4:18 Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day
 the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has
 not the Lord gone ahead of you?" So Barak went
 down Mount Tabor... (LIKE MOSES IN EXO 33:15)



- 3. LEADING NOT FOR PERSONAL GLORY
 4:9 "The honour will not be yours" (OK NP!)
- **4. LEADING WITH STRONG SUPPORT/RESPECT**4:10 Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and 10,000 men went up under his command.
- 5. LEADING WITH ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE 4:16 Barak pursued ... and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

GODIS LOOKING FOR 1. WORTHY LEADERS

- Lead as they are led by God & the Man/Woman of God,
 NOT led by the world or by the need for self-glory
- Lead undeterred by difficult circumstances or daunting obstacles – they need only know that God is with them!
- Lead from the front in the thick of the action
- Lead with godly wisdom, courage and conviction

GOD IS LOOKING FOR

1. WORTHY LEADERS

- GOD'S APPOINTED
- · HEEDING GOD'S CALL
- · TO DO GOD'S WILL/WORK
- · IN GOD'S WAY
- · WITH GOD'S HELP

"WORTHINESS" IS NOT ABOUT THEM, ALL ABOUT GOD!

IN A TIME OF LAWLESSNESS, WHEN EVIL IS OVERTAKING THE LAND, GOD IS LOOKING FOR 1. WORTHY LEADERS



GOD IS LOOKING FOR WILLING FOLLOWERS



JAEL PRESENTS AN ETHICAL DILEMMA FOR US ...

Jael killed a man! With a tent peg! 🚱 🍑 🧥

Yet Jael is commended for the act in 5:24-27 - "Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women."

>> HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF THIS?!
("Pastor issit okay I also kill my horrible boss")

GOD IS LOOKING FOR WILLING FOLLOWERS



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

1. In the OT, some killing seems "justifiable".

Examples:

- "Just War": Ehud in Judges 3, David vs Goliath
- In self-defence: against a robber (Exo 22:2)
- Death penalty for murder (Gen 9:6, Deut 17:6)



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

2. Compare Jael's actions to Rahab's lies (Joshua 2)

HEBREWS 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

JAMES 2:25 Was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

3. Wait, could they be "justified by works" in OT?

Not by works in and of themselves.

But works can be the fruit of a genuine faith. It is always that faith (not the works) that is credited as righteousness (Gen 15:6, Rom 4:22).

We have to trust that God knows the heart of faith.



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

4. Jael's blessing gives insight into how God views her

While we are not told explicitly, some possibilities:

- "Just war" given the oppression God's people faced
- Self-defence Sisera entering into a woman's tent
- Contrast this with husband's alliance with the enemy



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

5. NT: Killing is never justifiable.

MATT 5:21-23 Jesus says anger is akin to murder! He wouldn't let Peter even cut off a soldier's ear.

1 JOHN 3:15 "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

6. Why the change? Because of the New Covenant!

Established through the blood of Jesus (Luke 22:20). God didn't change. But the way we express our faith to Him has changed.

Under the New Covenant, "faith" has been redefined. It's not just believing in <u>God's promises</u>, but in believing in <u>Jesus</u> who is the <u>fulfilment of God's promises</u>.



MAKING SENSE OF JAEL'S ACTIONS

7. Conclusion: "So ... can I kill my bad boss or not?"

Jael "got away with murder" in a very different circumstance. Their "just war" was against Canaan.

Our "war" today is against sin and the spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:12), because that keeps us away from Jesus. We must only "put to death" our sinful nature.



ULTIMATELY, JAEL'S ACTIONS SHOWED THAT SHE WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD

She did not what was pleasant, but what was RIGHT.

Not like her husband, Heber the Kenite, who allowed himself to be in a compromised position.

Not like the rest of Israel, who did nothing but evil.

WILLING VOLUNTEERS

MANY WERE OF THE SAME WILLING SPIRIT AS JAEL

TUDGES 5:13-15 The remnant of the nobles came down; the people of the Lord came down to me against the mighty. Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek; Benjamin was with the people who followed you. From Makir (part of tribe of Manasseh) captains came down, From Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff. The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; Issachar was with Barak, sent under his command into the valley.

WILLING VOLUNTEERS

BUT MANY WERE UNWILLING

- 4:1 The Israelites who did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- 4:17 Heber the Kenite struck a deal with the enemy.
- 5:7-8 "Villagers in Israel would not fight ... not a shield or spear was seen among 40,000 in Israel."

WILLING VOLUNTEERS

BUT MANY WERE UNWILLING

JUDGES 5:15-17

In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart.
Why did you stay among the sheep pens
to hear the whistling for the flocks?
Gilead (East Manasseh) stayed beyond the Jordan.
And Dan, why did he linger by the ships?
Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves.

GOD IS LOOKING FOR

2. WILLING FOLLOWERS

FOLLOWERS OF GOD WHO ARE WILLING TO DO ...

- Whatever it takes
- Whatever we believe God is asking of us
- With whatever He places in our hands
- When those around us (Heber) won't do it
- Without any compromise

GOD IS LOOKING FOR

- 2. WILLING FOLLOWERS
 - · GOD'S PEOPLE
 - SUBMITTING TO GOD'S LEADERS
 - · TO DO GOD'S WILL/WORK
 - · INGOD'S WAY
 - · WITE COD'S HELP





IN DEBORAH'S TIME, THIS MEANT THE NATION OF ISRAEL.
TODAY WE CALL THIS THE CHURCH.



WHAT HAS GOD BEEN CALLING YOU TO DO? BLESS THE LORD WITH YOUR WILLING OBEDIENCE!