



# SERMON NOTES



Week 2 (June 13, 2021):  
"Judge Deborah"

*Judges 4-5*

## I. The Cycle of Judges

- A. The Canaanite god Ba 'al is described as a fertility god as well as a god of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B. Because of their evil doing, the LORD gives Israel over to the Canaanite King \_\_\_\_\_ .
- C. God raises up Deborah, who is described as a Judge, a prophet, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.

## II. Deborah's Story

- A. Unlike the other Judges, Deborah actually settle disputes and held court under a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B. When she calls up military commander Barak, he is fearful of the Canaanite army and their 900 \_\_\_\_\_ .
- C. When the evil Canaanite commander, Sisera, arrives at the tent of Jael, she tucks him in with a glass of \_\_\_\_\_ before taking a great risk to kill him.

## III. Be Ready

Like Deborah....

- A. Be ready for God to act in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
- B. Be ready to listen for God's \_\_\_\_\_ .
- C. Be ready, if you hear God's call, to act with courage and a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

Because they didn't fully trust God and so didn't fully obey God, Israel was living in the land God had promised, but alongside people who practiced despicable acts in their worship of false gods. When the people of Israel begin to experience distress because of their disobedience, they cry out to God, and God once again raises up a heroic spiritual leader. Deborah, a judge, prophet and leader, delivers Israel from the grip of King Jabin, with the help of the military leader, Barak, and a clever woman, Jael. Vocal and wise leaders can help turn us back to God if we are willing to listen.

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### Monday: Judges 4:1-7

In Judges 4:6, Deborah sends for the military leader, Barak. She does not ask or plead, she simply sends for him with authority. Her authority did not come from her skill, her reputation or her job title, but from God. When God puts something on your heart to do, do you struggle with the words to say? Do you struggle with what people will think? If you know God has called you to a task, pray for the courage today to act.

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### Tuesday: Judges 4:8-10

Deborah just ordered Barak to take 10,000 men into battle with a king, who has been oppressing them for 20 years, a king with 900 iron chariots! And yet, Barak does not sneer or even question whether Deborah had thought through all the consequences of her orders. He only responds, "If you will go with me, I will go." While his comment is often interpreted as being cowardly, perhaps he wanted a strong person of faith with him? When have you wanted a strong person of faith along with you for the ride?

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### Wednesday: Ephesians 6:10-13

If you read Judges 4 & 5, you see that Jael is commended for her courageous acts in the midst of war. Paul's words in Ephesians could embolden a beleaguered army, but Paul is saying that when the powers of evil confront us, the battle is a spiritual one. Do you have a sense of this kind of struggle in your own life? Remembering God is your ally, pray for whatever courage you may need today.

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### Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

The Book of Judges describes a world in the utter chaos of war, but today we continue to fight our own battles. Theologian A.W. Tozer once wrote, "Anyone who wishes to check on his true spiritual condition may do so by noting what his voluntary thoughts have been over the last hours or days." What do you think about when you can think about whatever you please? Ask God to "take captive" your thoughts today and see where God gently leads you.

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### Friday: 1 Corinthians 1:20-25

In the time of the Judges, God's people lost sight of God's wisdom. Barak was willing to listen to Deborah, whose wisdom came directly from God. The account of Deborah points out how God can use those who are regarded as lowly and weak to bring about his will in a broken land. One day, Christ will come to embody the wisdom of God. Pray that God would reveal to you His wisdom, through Christ's Spirit, for this day.

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## MOVING FORWARD

We know that God is always at work, the question is whether you will accompany and partner with God in the work you are given to do. The example of Deborah shows that listening for God's voice and acting on what you hear involves more than what you are personally called to do—your obedience may touch more lives than you could ever imagine. But as we partner with God, we discover God is working within us and transforming us as well. Unfortunately, as we continue the account of the Book of Judges, we also learn that if necessary, God will continue His work despite us.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) storm and rain, B) Jabin, C) mother. IIA) palm tree, B) iron chariots, C) milk. IIIA) mysterious ways, B) wisdom, C) fiery.*