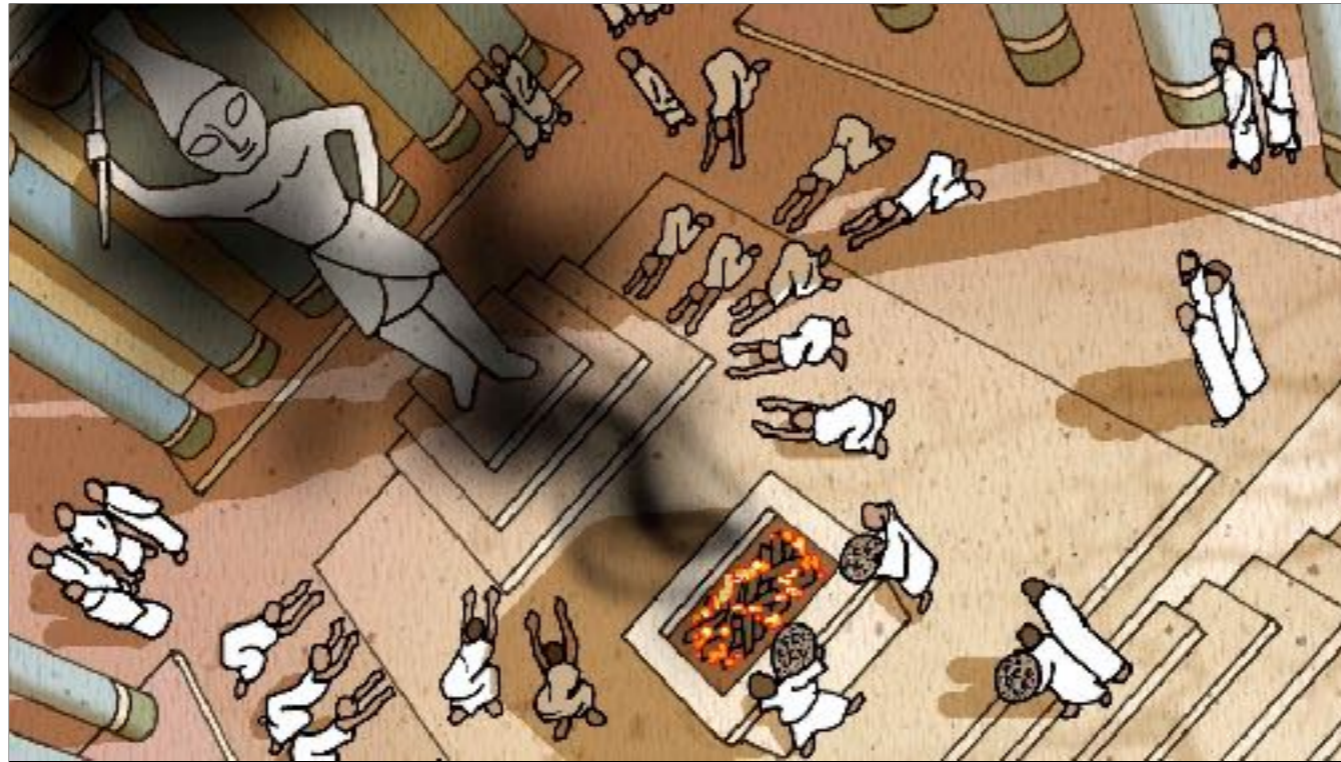


## The People Offered Themselves Willingly

Judges 5:2



- Judges 4-5
- Deborah, Barak, and Jael
- The conditions in Israel were bleak ... again.
- Judges 4:1-2 (ESV) 1 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. 2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim.
- Judges 5:6-8 (ESV) 6 “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways. 7 The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. 8 When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?



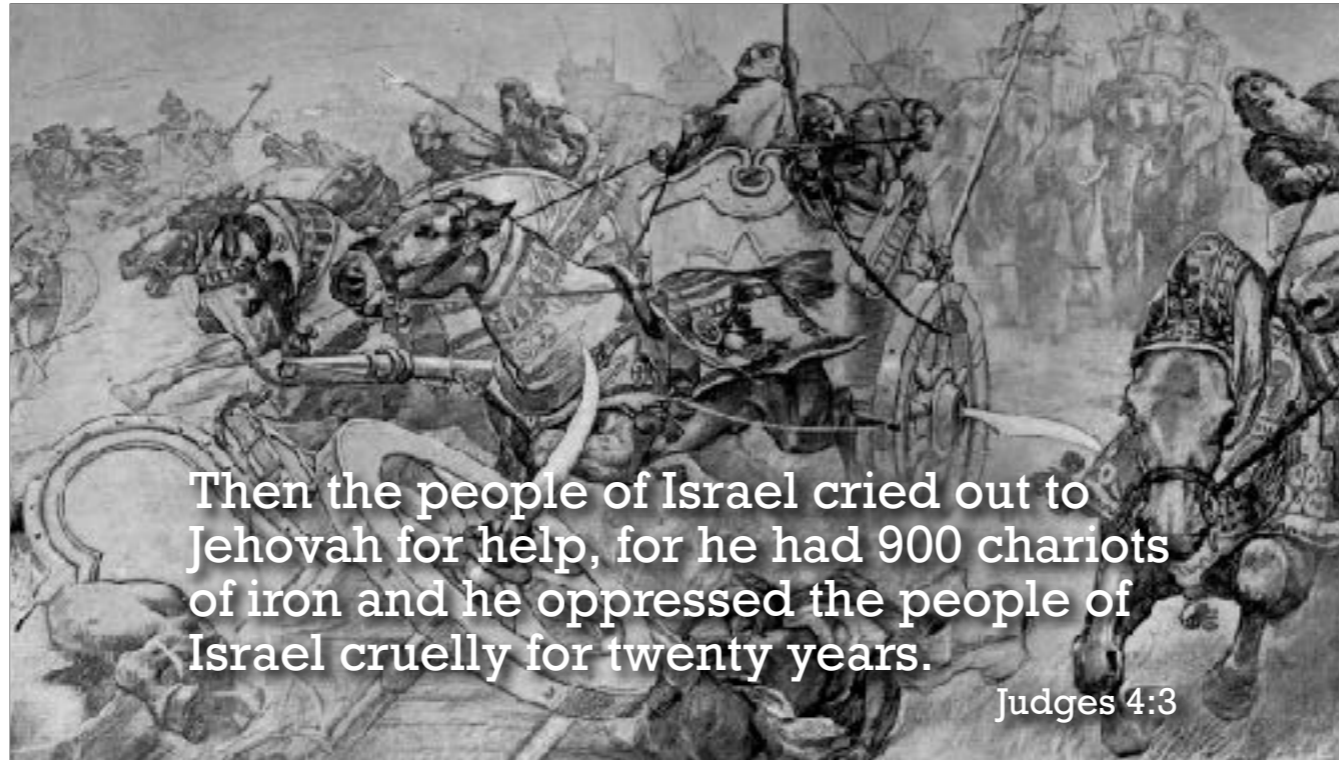
- 8 When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates.



- 6 the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways.
- 7 The villagers ceased in Israel;
- 8 Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?



- Israel was not safe and not faithful to God.
- The people are defeated:
  - They aren't safe in their villages.
  - They aren't safe traveling.
  - They cannot help themselves: no spears or shields
  - They have turned away from God



Then the people of Israel cried out to Jehovah for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

Judges 4:3

- Judges 4:3 (ESV) Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.
- Judges 5:2 (ESV) “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!



That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 4:3

- Judges 5:2 (ESV) “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!
- People who stepped up...



- Deborah
  - Judges 5:7 they ceased to be until I **arose**; I, Deborah, **arose** as a mother in Israel.
  - 5:7 Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.
  - 4:4: a prophetess
  - 4:4: wife of Lappidoth



- 4:4: judging Israel
  - deciding a case, what is right, wrong, fair
- 4:5: sitting under a palm tree
- 4:5: people came to her





- Deborah filled a unique role among the judges.
  - Not just as a woman, though.
    - Some men deride women doing anything in God's service
    - Some women refuse to serve as if God cannot use women
  - Approved by God as a prophetess: speaking for God.



- The people trusted her to make righteous judgment.
- It was the beginning of the people turning back to God.



- Why did Deborah Arise?
  - Prophetess
  - She helped them to see that following after God's righteousness was better for all the people.
  - At a time when the people had turned from God, she submitted to God.
    - She became a light in the midst of darkness.



- Barak

- Judges 4:6-8 (ESV) 6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?’” 8 Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.”



- 8 Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.”
- Wildly debated if this is an expression of Barak’s weakness and reluctance (that’s the understanding I’ve had)
  - In part, this is understandable, from a human perspective.
    - Fighting 900 chariots with 10,000 men with no real weapons: sure to lose.
    - Barak is not first to question God’s plans: Moses, Gideon, Jonah



- But this may have been something else entirely. Maybe Barak wanted the presence of Deborah there to help lead the people.
  - Hebrews 11:32-33 (ESV) 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, **Barak**, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 **who through faith conquered kingdoms**
  - So perhaps we should consider that Barak was expressing his faith, requesting Deborah's help?
    - The presence of Deborah would show God's approval, encourage the people to join the battle.



- Maybe it's not simple:
  - The glory of the battle would not be given to him, but to a woman (4:9)
    - sounds negative (less than ideal)
  - Barak lead anyway!



- The People Volunteered
- Judges 4:10 (ESV) 10 And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.
- This wasn't calling an army: no spears or shields; some swords (4:15)





- Courageous: 900 iron chariots and multitude
  - Judges 5:13 (ESV) 13 Then down marched the remnant of the noble; the people of the LORD marched down for me against the mighty.
  - Judges 5:18 (ESV) 18 Zebulun is a people who risked their lives to the death; Naphtali, too, on the heights of the field.



- Each person that gathered at Mt. Tabor was vital to this victory.
  - They weren't properly equipped.
  - They were obedient and zealous and ready to follow God's lead (great change)
  - They fought for God: victory.



- God sent rain, chariots bogged in mud, defeat of army; Sisera flees on foot.
- Judges 4:15: And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.
- Judges 5:20-22 (ESV) 20 From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. 21 The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might! 22 “Then loud beat the horses' hoofs with the galloping, galloping of his steeds.



- Judges 4:17: But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.



- Judges 4:21 But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.
- Judges 5:24 (ESV) 24 “Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed.
- Judges 5:26 (ESV) 26 She sent her hand to the tent peg and her right hand to the workmen's mallet; she struck Sisera; she crushed his head; she shattered and pierced his temple.



- Some have accuse Jael of murder, or violating hospitality.
- But she is blessed for her courageous action.
  - Ended the oppression of the Israelites
  - Took action when it was needed.

But let those who love Him be like the  
sun when it comes out in full strength.

Judges 5:31 (NKJV)



- Judges 5:31 “So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.” And the land had rest for forty years.
- NKJV “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.
- Light, hope

That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 5:2



- Judges 5:2 (ESV) 2 “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!
- God’s people are to be volunteers: ready to serve him, work for him, obey him
  - Psalms 110:3 (ESV) Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.



That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 5:2



- Give yourself freely to God
  - 2 Corinthians 8:5 (ESV) 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 5:2



- God can use you to help His people and His kingdom.
- We need Deborah's ... to point us in the right way.
- We need Barak's ... leaders who step up and lead us, following God

That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 5:2



- We need volunteers ... to courageously gather together and fight for Jehovah
  - Don't be overly concerned about whether you are fully equipped.
- We need Jael's ... who do what needs to be done.

That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless Jehovah!

Judges 5:2



- Will you be zealous to lead and serve?

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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Judges 4-5

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## The People Offered Themselves Willingly

Judges 5:2

Synopsis: Deborah, Barak, the people, and Jael provide powerful examples of obeying, serving, and working for Jehovah. When God's leaders lead and his people are willing works, there is great victory and light.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**