

JUDGES 5:24-31
REFLECTIONS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 5 as we continue our in-depth study of the book of Judges.

This morning we will finish up this song of Deborah and Barak, a song that praised God for the deliverance, the victory He had given them against Jabin the King of the Canaanites and his commander Sisera.

Over the last several weeks, as we have been going through this song here in Judges chapter 5, we have looked at the following points:

WHEN LEADERS LEAD – JUDGES 5:1-2, 9

REMEMBER GOD – JUDGES 5:3-5

LIFE UNDER OPPRESSION – JUDGES 5:6-8

THE STORIES OF GOD’S PEOPLE – JUDGES 5:10-12

“WHO WILL GO FOR US?” – JUDGES 5:13-18

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD – JUDGES 5:19-23

And this morning, as we finish up this song, we will be looking at ***REFLECTIONS*** in ***JUDGES 5:24-31***.

I can’t tell you how important this is because we can get so busy that we forget to stop and smell the roses, you might say!

I think it is so important that we stop along life’s road and look back at what God has done.

Now, as we do that it may seem that God has taken us on a very winding, a very steep and maybe a very dangerous road. But as we do look back, we can see how God has directed us and how He is faithful to bring us through those times – ***REFLECTIONS!***

Let me share with you a few points around what we can see as we look back at what God has done in our lives and then we will dig into our study this morning. You see, this will dovetail us right where we need to be.

The first point is important as we look back and see ***THE DELIVERANCES THAT THE LORD HAS BROUGHT FOR US!***

We are told in Deuteronomy 5:15, “**And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.**”

Moses was reminding the Children of Israel of how God brought them out of the bondage that they were in down in Egypt, He had given them this victory! ***REFLECTIONS!***

The second point is also important for us to understand and remember as we look back and see ***THE WAY THAT HE HAS LED US!***

We are told in Deuteronomy 8:2, “**And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.**”

Moses was reminding them of how God was leading them all those years and what may have seemed like a foolish or unfruitful path to take, God was using those times to test their faith! ***REFLECTIONS!***

The third point is that we need to understand and remember as we look back and see ***THE BLESSINGS HE HAS BESTOWED UPON US!***

In Deuteronomy 32:7-12 we are told, **“Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you: When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, So the Lord alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.”**

Moses wanted them to look back and remember all the blessings that God had given to them! ***REFLECTIONS!***

The fourth point we need to look back and remember is ***THE VICTORIES THAT HE HAS WON!***

We see this in Deuteronomy 11:2-7 where we are told, **“Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm - His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all**

the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel - but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.”

Here we see that Moses wanted them to look back and see all the victories that God had given them, not that they won, but that He won for them. They saw the mighty hand of God on their lives and Moses wanted them to remember these victories! ***REFLECTIONS!***

And lastly, the fifth point that we need to look back and remember is ***THE ENCOURAGEMENTS THAT HE HAS GIVEN US!***

We see this encouragement spoken of in Joshua 23:14, **“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.”**

Their leader, Joshua was going to die, and Joshua wanted them to remember all that God had spoken to them and how everything that God had promised them, came to pass!

REFLECTIONS!

You see, when we face difficult times in our lives, we sometimes forget God’s past faithfulness. We tend to only see the detours or the dangerous paths or the difficulties that we are presently facing, and we become discouraged and we lose hope!

But as we look back, we will see ***THE DELIVERANCES THAT THE LORD HAS BROUGHT FOR US, THE WAY THAT HE HAS LED US, THE BLESSINGS HE HAS BESTOWED UPON US, THE VICTORIES THAT HE HAS WON, THE ENCOURAGEMENTS THAT HE HAS GIVEN US!***

And, as we will see as we conclude this song of Deborah and Barak, and as we have seen throughout the song, that is what the Lord wants us to glean from this - ***REFLECTIONS!***

He wants us to look back and remember all that He has done in our lives, is doing in our lives and will do in our lives. Never give up because God never gives up on you!

I have broken down these verses we will be looking at this morning as follows:

PRAISE FOR JAEL – JUDGES 5:24-27

FALSE HOPE FOR THE ENEMY – JUDGES 5:28-30

TRUE HOPE AND DELIVERANCE FOUND IN THE LORD – JUDGES 5:31

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Judges chapter 5, beginning in verse 24 as we look at the topic of - ***REFLECTIONS!***

JUDGES 5

VERSES 24-27

Here we see the praise for Jael by God.

If you remember back in Judges chapter 4, God spoke to Barak and told him to gather his men and go into battle against Sisera, but it would seem that fear stopped him from walking by faith. He did not go forward; he did not gather any troops. He was at a standstill you might say! And that is not a good thing!

And we are told in Judges 4:6-7 what took place next, **“Then she [Deborah] sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, “Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand”?’”**

We see here that Deborah calls Barak and reminds him of what the Lord already told him. He was to gather troops from Naphtali and Zebulun and go after Sisera.

Now we need to understand that they were far outnumbered in this battle and it truly was a walk of faith on their part as they went forward.

We are told that this army was huge! In fact, Jabin, the King of the Canaanites had them in bondage for twenty years!

And look at their military might!

The King, Jabin had 900 chariots of iron, and these were impressive war machines.

These chariots had a platform for a driver; a javelin thrower, and archer, and on the wheels of the chariot were blades so that as you got close to the chariot, your legs would be cut off!

And with these 900 chariots, they also had a very impressive army! The number of Jabin's standing army is given by Josephus (Ant. 5, 5, 1) as 300,000 footmen, 10,000 horsemen. Pretty impressive to say the least.

Now, when you look at these numbers, you can see why the children of Israel could not mount an assault against them and gain their freedom. Sometimes we come against them for their lack of faith, but when you truly look at the situation, you can understand why they were fearful or why Barak was fearful to go forward. I think many times we don't walk by faith when the situations are not as bad as we see here. So these are lessons for us to learn from!

Now, like I have said, you can also understand why Barak was so nervous and did not do what the Lord had called him to do.

But now that Deborah has called him and told him or reminded him of what the Lord was going to do in this battle, He would give them the victory.

So, as you would think, Barak gathered his troops and went to battle, right? Wrong!

We are told in Judges 4:8, **“And Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!’”**

Once again we see the faith of Barak kind of waver as he refuses to go to battle unless Deborah goes with him.

Now, is this what the Lord told Barak to do, get Deborah to go with him? No!

Is this what Deborah told Barak to do, as Deborah was just speaking forth the words of God? No!

And the result of his failure to trust God and walk by faith, is given to us in Judges 4:9, where we are told, **“So she [Deborah] said, ‘I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.’ Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.”**

And since Deborah was going to go into battle with Barak, Barak went forward and we are told that, **“And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.”** Judges 4:10.

We see Barak gather the forces, his army from the tribe of Zebulun and Naphtali, he was now obeying what the Lord told him to do, taking Deborah with him in this battle.

And God did give them a great victory over Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army!

And as things looked bad for Sisera, as his chariots and the other chariots were stuck in the mud and couldn’t move, we see Sisera flee for his life as well as the rest of his army!

Now, as he is on the run he goes to the camp of Heber, the Kenite.

Heber was a traitor to Israel as he gave the battle plans of Israel to Sisera. So Sisera thinks this would be a good place to hide.

And as luck would have it, there is no such thing as luck, but the hand of God, but you know what I mean, he finds the tent of Heber's wife, Jael!

And this is what we are told in Judges 4:17-24, **“However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, ‘Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear.’ And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. Then he said to her, ‘Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.’ So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him. And he said to her, ‘Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, “Is there any man here?” you shall say, “No.”” Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, ‘Come, I will show you the man whom you seek.’ And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple. So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.”**

And what God had said through Deborah came to pass. Yes, they obtained this great victory, but Barak did not get the glory for this victory, but a woman did, a woman by the name of Jael!

And think about this. One woman took down their powerful military leader!

Folk's, God is looking for faithful people, people who are willing to walk by faith because He wants to give them the victory and in that He gets the glory!

Let me show you in the Bible of some amazing victories that only took place because of the hand of God upon their lives. And that is important, God called for them to go forward and they walked by faith and obtained tremendous victories!

That truly is what faith is all about. Faith is doing the impossible and believing it is very possible through God!

Here are just a few of these tremendous victory's that God gave the children of Israel:

- Abraham's 318 men against the Armies of Shinar (Babylon) – Genesis 14
- Pharaoh Pursues the Israelites in Exodus and they are Destroyed – Exodus 14
- The Israelites Fight Back against the Amalekites – Exodus 17:8–16
- Israel Marches on the City of Jericho – Joshua 6
- Joshua Leads Israel against the Five Amorite Kings – Joshua 10 (Deuteronomy 9:5)
- Gideon's 300 Rise Up against the Midianites – Judges 7–8:21
- The Christians' Spiritual Warfare – John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (Rom 13:12; Ephesians 6:11–18)

And think about this in regard to the spiritual warfare that we are facing. When the church began in the book of Acts, there was heavy persecution against it, first from the Jews and then the Gentiles. I guess you can say, in the end, the whole world is trying to extinguish our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! And that persecution that was affecting the church in the beginning, has grown and today, more Christians are being put to death for their faith in Jesus Christ than at any other time in church history!

Now, in saying that. Take a look around you. Take a look at the person sitting next to you or in back of you or in front of you.

As you are looking at them, do they look like big, tough, battle tested soldiers that you would want to be at your side in a physical battle? Is this the person you think could save you in an intense battle? You don't have to answer that because, chances are, you would never pick that person.

It is like in school, in gym class, when you had two teams and the captains had to pick which kids they wanted on their team and the ones that they didn't want on their team.

And if you were a few of the last to be picked, it meant that nobody wanted you!

But that is not how it is with the Lord. You see, the Lord picks the nobodies, those that are not qualified, the uneducated, the weak, the poor, and as He looks at us, He says, ***"I want you!"***

You see, the victory is not going to be found in our strength, our might, our muscle, our influence, our this or our that. Our victory is going to be found ***IN THE LORD!***

He is the One who will give us the victory!

We will see this when we look at the Judge, Gideon. In Judges 6:11-12 listen to what is taking place. We are told, **"Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!'"**

Now when I read this story, I just laugh. It is funny to me. Maybe you don't see it yet but let me show you what I mean.

I believe that this “**Angel of the LORD**” is the preincarnate Christ. And we will deal more with that when we get to Judges chapter 6.

But I want to focus on what is going on here.

The Lord comes and sits down under a tree, relaxed, no anxiety, no fear.

And here is Gideon threshing wheat in the winepress, why was he doing that?

Because he was afraid that as soon as he finished threshing his wheat, if he did this high up on the threshing floor, the enemy would see it and come and take it away from him.

Thus, he is in the winepress, usually a low area and he was trying to thresh the wheat in an area where there was usually no wind, hiding from the enemy. You see, the wind would blow the chaff away and the heavier wheat would fall to the ground.

So imagine poor Gideon trying to thresh this wheat with no wind, maybe he threw it up in the air and then tried to blow the chaff away.

And Gideon was not relaxed, he was anxious, he was fearful.

It is at this point, this scared, frighten man hears the Lord speak and say, “**The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!**”

I’m sure at this point Gideon turned to see who this person was talking to, it couldn’t be him, could it?

Listen to the way Gideon felt and look at what the Lord sees in him in Judges 6:13-14, **“Gideon said to Him, ‘O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, “Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?” But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.’ Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’”**

Gideon did not see himself as a mighty warrior. Like I have said, he was hiding in the winepress trying to thresh wheat, which must have been a very frustrating thing to do!

And I like what the Lord tells him, **“Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”**

The Lord was the One who was bringing Gideon into this battle and if God is for us, who can be against us? No one!

You see, the Lord saw the potential that was in Gideon. That should encourage us because we too are like Gideon in many ways and yet God uses the weak things of this world to do mighty things through.

That is what Paul said in I Corinthians 1:25-29, **“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”**

Paul is saying that it doesn't matter where you come from or what you have, all that matters is that God is in you and He will work through you.

Now maybe some of you still feel that you don't have the ability to do the things that God has called you to do.

Listen carefully, here are the requirements, and I don't mean to offend anyone, but it is what is being said here.

If you are not wise, if you are not mighty, if you are not noble, then you are called by God!

Not only that, but if you are also foolish, weak, base, God has chosen you to do His work!

Now, how many of you feel you don't meet the requirements? None of us because God wants to use us and the only thing we need to do is walk by faith. We need to be faithful in the calling that God has for our lives just as Jael was.

Yes, her husband was a traitor to Israel, he sold himself out to Jabin and Sisera, but his wife, Jael did as the Lord commanded and in the end, she got the glory in this victory, and I am sure she gave that glory to God!

May we be men and women of faith who are willing to walk by faith, not by sight and see the victories that God has for us as we do! ***THE PRAISE OF JAE!***

VERSES 28-30

In these verses we see the ***FALSE HOPE FOR THE ENEMY!***

Here we see what Sisera's mother was thinking as she waits for her son to return from battle. She is thinking of the worst.

She is worried because it is taking him so long to get back from battle, and like any mother for her son, she is overwhelmed by this. She does not hear the sound of the chariots returning from battle and in her mind, she is thinking the worst thing possible, he died in battle!

But never fear, one of the young women tries to comfort her by telling her that the delay is due to them dividing the spoils of victory and enjoying themselves after this victory.

They are taking the women captive for themselves. They are taking all the plunder they can, and it takes time. They want it all! And Sisera's mother also came to that conclusion.

But in the end, Sisera is dead because for the enemies of God, there is no hope, or it is a false hope for them.

As I was pondering this and praying for direction on these verses, what the Lord was showing me is that the world thinks they are victorious apart from God. They don't need God; they don't believe in God and they will do what they want!

But here is the thing. Yes, man has a free will to do whatever he wants. That is very true!

The thing that people forget is that God is Omniscient, or He knows all things. He can tell us what is going to happen before it happens.

That means nothing takes Him by surprise, He knows what man is going to do. In fact, He has told us what is going to happen, and we see that unfolding before our eyes today.

He knows the beginning from the end, make no mistake about that.

Let me show you what I mean.

After the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, the leader in that area, Herod, heard from the wise men that there has been born a King! Herod didn't like that; he was the King and no little kid was going to take that away from him!

And listen to what took place as Herod is devising his evil plan to kill this child, to kill Jesus!

We are told in Matthew 2:13-15, **“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt I called My Son.’”**

Joseph and Mary were warned of what Herod was going to try and do and thus, they were told to flee and go to Egypt and stay there. How long? Until the Lord speaks to them again and then, out of Egypt the Lord will call His Son!

Herod thought that he was in control, he was doing what he wanted, but the Lord already knew his evil plans and saved the Son!

I look at and listen to leaders around the world today and they have plans. They are putting together a One World Government. This is their plan; this is their agenda. They have even divided the world into ten kingdoms and when you look at the free trade agreements, they fall in line with how this world was divided by the Club of Rome years ago! In fact, one of the kingdoms is the United States, Canada and Mexico!

I hear them and their plans and I laugh at what they are doing because they think this is their plan, that they are in control. And, in a sense, because of free will, it is their plan, but God has already told us what they are doing and in the end, these kingdoms will be destroyed and the Lord will set up His Kingdom on this earth!

I look at and listen to the Pope and how he is trying to unite the religions of the world into a One World Religion. It will have a form of Christianity, but it will deny the power of Christianity because Jesus, the Jesus of the Bible, will not be the one they worship, it will be the Antichrist!

And look at the leaders from various religions and how they are coming together with Rome. Look at the Protestant church, the various denominations and they are joining together with Rome. And it can become disheartening to us, but remember what Jesus said, **“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”** Matthew 16:18.

In other words, those who have their faith built upon the Rock, not Peter but upon Jesus, the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. We will stand strong in the Lord.

But if you depart from the faith, you are moving away from the Lord, look out. Yes, this One World Religion will come together but it will die in the end.

And I can go on and on and show you how man thinks that he is in control, but the reality is, yes, like I said, man has a free will but make no mistake about it, God knows what is going to happen and it is all according to His plan, His purposes and in the end, He will be victorious and those who oppose Him, even though they have high hopes right now to do what they want, commit any sin they want, they will be destroyed!

We are told in Proverbs 21:1, **“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”**

Make no mistake about it, the Lord is the one in control and not man!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

You can't fight God. It does not work. You can't find one man in history, one man in the revelation of God that ever fought against God and won. It can't be done. That's only in Genesis that shows us the hopeless stupidity of fighting God. You can go from there on into Exodus and you'll find another that tried to fight God, and he's the first of a long line of a certain type of people who tried. Pharaoh, the first of many kings, who tried to fight God. And I think the scripture over and over and over and over talks about kings and rulers fighting God as opposed to individuals. And the reason for that is this: The most powerful of men are unable to fight God and win.

It's one thing when a man like myself or like one of us fights God, but when a monarch of the world fights God that means he's amassing all of human power against God and yet he is defeated as well. And so God has a long history in the Old Testament of all the kings who tried to fight him and what happened to them, and the whole Old Testament is strewn with the wreckage of kings who tried to fight God.

Pharaoh tried to fight God. You remember the story. It cost him his honor, his people, his slaves, his army, his son, and his own life.

King Arad, the Canaanite, fought God and God destroyed his people and destroyed his armies.

Sihon King of the Amorites, Og of Bashan all tried to fight God. They were everyone slaughtered and their land possessed by Israel.

Balak King of Moab tried to fight God, plotted against God and lost.

The Midianites fought God. God slew all the Midianite males and took the five Midian kings and slew them.

The King of Ai fought God and was hanged.

All the kings in Joshua 9 fought God, they plotted all kinds of clever little devices against God, and all five of them were taken and hanged on five trees in a row.

The northern kings in Palestine [Israel] fought God. Joshua hamstringed all their horses and burned all their chariots and slaughtered them all with a sword. The Bible tells us in Joshua chapter 12 there were 31 kings who tried to fight God that were slain by Moses and Joshua alone. The greatest men of the world, the monarchs of the world who could amass the armies of the world tried to fight God and they couldn't do it and come out on top.

You go on through the book of Judges and you find there that the people tried to fight God. You go into 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles and you'll find king after king after king who tried to fight God and it ends in disaster.

In fact if you go and study the northern kingdom every king of the northern kingdom after it split, every one without an exception tried to fight God. You start with Jeroboam and you go right down, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, right on down through the whole line ends up with Menahem and every one of them tried to fight God and every one of them ended in a disaster.

The sad tragic story of Jeroboam in 1 Kings 14 and what happened to him. The promise that because he tried to fight God, not only would he die, but he stepped his foot in the threshold and the minute his foot hit the threshold his son would die on the spot and that's exactly what happened. You can't fight God. It doesn't matter how powerful you are. . . .

In 2 Kings 19:35, “It came to pass that night that the angel of the Lord went out and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred fourscore and five thousand,” 185,000 slaughtered in the night by an angel. “And when they arose early in the morning behold these were all dead bodies. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went and returned and dwelt in Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword.”

All of 185,000 of his people died and he himself died, Sennacherib. Why? Back to verse 22, a very important statement, God says, “Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? And against whom hast thou exalted thy voice and lifted up thine eyes on high? Even against the Holy God of Israel.” Sennacherib fought God and lost. It can’t be done. Ahab tried to fight God. Remember him? The dogs licked up his blood. You can’t fight God.

In the Southern kingdom as well as the Northern kingdom most of the kings fought God. Rehoboam, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, right on down, and finally the tragic last one Zedekiah. Remember the terrible story of how his eyes were burned out and he was chained and taken off to the Babylon. You can’t fight God. The greatest in the world have tried it. There have been Napoleons and Hitlers and Stalins and Genghis Khans and everybody else. They have tried to fight God. They have amassed the fortunes and the armies of the world and they cannot fight God and win.

And what makes a man think just a little insignificant puny man on the face of the globe that he is going to stand in defiance of God? That is the most foolish thing a man can ever conceive of. You who can't even figure out the simplest facts of human existence are going to fight the God who authored the universe. It doesn't make a lot of sense. And since scripture has been complete men have continued to do it. But you know what they are all dead, withered, decayed and gone and God's alive. . . .

In Psalms, listen to these verses – here's a classic definition of all these kings we've talked about. "The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord." And you know what the Lord's response is? Verse 4, "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh." It's stupid to fight God. Doesn't make sense. Isaiah said this, "Woe unto him that strives with his Maker," Isaiah 49:5. Man's a fool to fight God.

- <http://bit.ly/2TsyTJa>

Yes, the world does have hope, they hope in all kinds of things. But let me be clear on this, it is a false hope, and, in the end, it will be dashed upon the rocks as will their own lives, just like Jabin and Sisera found out.

FALSE HOPE FOR THE ENEMY!

But we are not going to end here because that is not too encouraging. In fact, it is not encouraging at all. We will finish up by looking at Judges 5:31 and the ***TRUE HOPE AND DELIVERANCE FOUND IN THE LORD!***

VERSE 31

I want you to see the contrast here.

First, as we saw in the previous verses, the enemies of God have a false hope in their lives. It ends with eternal separation from God but even in this present world, their hope is false, and it is fleeting!

But notice what we see here for those who love God. We are told that we find victory in the Lord! He will defeat those enemies in our lives!

Listen to what David wrote in Psalm 39:7, “**And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.**”

First of all, in this Psalm, David was being chastened by the Lord for some sin in his life.

And we see that he is asking the Lord to help him learn these lessons quickly so that he might move on.

Life is too short to be dealing with the consequences of sin for long periods of time. David wants to get beyond this. So he will repent and try to learn the lesson so he can move on. He doesn't want to spend some twenty years in captivity like the children of Israel did in the hands of their enemy because they refused to repent before God!

And make no mistake about it, David understood this chastening was coming from the Lord and it can be overwhelming at times. And we can be so focused on what is going on around us, what others are doing to us instead of doing what David did, “**My hope is in You.**”

Where is your hope this morning? Is it in what you can do, how you can get out of this situation?

I hope not.

You see, it needs to be in the Lord because even at our best, we are empty, the things we try to do apart from the Lord are vain, they are meaningless, they will not benefit us but they will surely hurt us!

Thus, if you are in sin, like David was, repent and get right with God.

That is what we saw here in Judges. They went into captivity because they turned from the Lord and they spent twenty years in captivity before they repented, and God did deliver them! They put their trust in the Lord and they believed what God had promised them, He was more than able to bring to pass!

And that is an important lesson for us. You see, the best thing and really the only thing we can do is to put our trust, our hope in the Lord!

Look at this again.

David asks the question, “**What do I wait for?**” And notice his response. It is not focused upon this life, but upon the Lord. “**My hope is in You.**”

That is what we must do, give it to the Lord and rest in Him, wait upon Him for deliverance instead of getting in the way and messing things up.

It is as David said in Psalm 27:14, “**Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!**”

Not only will God give us the victory, but He will strengthen our heart as we wait upon Him, as we trust in Him!

Now let me also say this. Not everything we go through is a result of sin in our lives. Yes, sin in this world has brought some devastating things, but the things we are going through may not be related to something specific that we have done.

Think about it. The loss of a job. The loss of a spouse. The loss of a child. A major illness in your life. A major surgery in your life. Some devastating news in your life. And the list can go on.

What are you going to do?

Just what David did! **“And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.”**

Let me share this with you and I hope it does help you, encourage you as you see what some go through and where their hope is in. Now, maybe you are not going through anything difficult right now, but maybe you can share this hope with others. And maybe this is just for a future time in your life when you need to realize – ***YOUR HOPE IS IN THE LORD*** and that is exactly where it needs to be.

We are told,

Sometimes it feels like life is falling apart.

Sometimes it comes crashing down in a moment of tragedy. Sometimes it slips slowly through your fingers, like when your health deteriorates or your marriage stagnates.

“I often misinterpret the hardships of my life as evidence that God is against me.”

Since our twin sons were born six years ago with a condition called nemaline myopathy, I’ve become familiar with the anxiety, helplessness, and disorienting feeling of falling apart. It felt slow and gradual when ultrasounds progressively revealed something wasn’t right with our boys. It felt sharp and crushing when I heard the panic in my wife’s voice over the phone. “It’s happening,” she cried. “Isaac’s dying!”

What hope, what help, what grace does God offer that can hold us together when it feels like life is falling apart? I have found that God himself holds me together as I cling to what his word reveals about who he is and how he works to redeem fallen people in a broken world. One of the places I find this grace is the exodus story.

In Egypt, the Israelites were ruthlessly afflicted with backbreaking slave labor. Circumstances beyond their control made their lives bitter (Exodus 1:11-14). In their agony, they cried out to God for relief. In response, “God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel - and God knew” (Exodus 2:24-25).

God heard. God remembered. God saw. God knew.

Then out of the burning bush, God told Moses, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them” (Exodus 3:7-8).

God saw. God heard. God knew. And God came down to deliver.

When it feels like life is falling apart, it’s tempting to believe that God is distant and disinterested in my plight. But knowing the character of God is a deep comfort. Not only is God omniscient, but he is good, and he is willing and able to deliver. . . .

Just like the Israelites, I often misinterpret the hardships of my life as evidence that God is against me. Such wrong thinking about God inevitably results in sinful attitudes and actions. When my life is falling apart on the outside, the default response of my flesh is to fall apart on the inside. Anxiety. Despair. Fear. Anger. Bitterness. Just like the Israelites, I am prone to think hard and bitter thoughts toward God when I can’t see a way out.

The very circumstances that Moses and the Hebrews understood to mean that God was working against them were actually the very circumstances in which God was powerfully at work for them. He was actively laying the groundwork for a monument to his glory that would be the joy of his people for generations.

I can never rely on my finite, emotional, human perspective. The very events that I misconstrue to mean that my life is falling apart are likely the groundwork God is laying for another monument to the glory of his redeeming grace.

“We often fail to see that God is at work in our circumstances, not simply in spite of them.”

Unlike my fallible feelings, this is reliable grace from God that holds me together. I know it's true because fifteen hundred years after the exodus, God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us (Romans 8:32). Jesus's own disciples misinterpreted the crucifixion of their Lord to mean the death of their dreams. Perhaps if they had discerned this pattern in the character and ways of God - that God loves glorious rescues - they wouldn't have been so slow to believe that the Son of God had to suffer and die before rising to rule and reign (Luke 24:25-27).

So, the next time it feels like your life is falling apart, fear not, stand firm, and brace yourself to see the salvation of the Lord. You have only to be silent while God works for you. The exodus is an example and Jesus is the guarantee that God can and will work all things for the good of those who love him.

- <http://bit.ly/3cqLoEg>

What we see here is that same hope that God gave the children of Israel in the Exodus. That same hope He gave the children of Israel in their battle against Sisera. That same hope that God gave in time past is the same hope He gives us today!

And as we come to God, as our hope is in Him, we are told in Judges 5, “**. . . So the land had rest for forty years.**” We too can have that same rest when we hope in the Lord!

Listen to the perspective that Jesus gives to us and I think it will help us to understand what we are facing each and every day and where our rest is found.

Jesus said in John 16:33, “**These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”

Make no mistake about it, our ***TRUE HOPE AND DELIVERANCE IS FOUND IN THE LORD!***

As I have said when we opened up our study this morning, just the reality of life and what we go through, it is not always easy. I know that we feel at times that God has taken us on a very winding, a very steep and maybe a very dangerous road. But as we do look back, we can see how God has directed us and how He is faithful to bring us through those times –

REFLECTIONS!

That is what Deborah and Barak were doing in this song of praise unto God, reflecting back on all that He had done for them, and by putting this in a song, it will help others to see what God has done!

May we take the time and reflect back on all that God has done in our lives and sing a song of praise unto Him, and let others see that our God is not dead, He is alive -

REFLECTIONS!

