OHBC Six-Day Bible Study

Weekly Bible Study: Judges 5

The Lord Who Wins the Victory

Weekly Theme

Judges 5 records the song of Deborah and Barak following Israel's victory over the Canaanite army commanded by Sisera. While Judges 4 describes the events of the battle, Judges 5 celebrates what God accomplished through those events. Deborah and Barak do not begin their song by praising their own courage or military strength. Instead, **they call God's people to recognize the Lord as the true source of their deliverance.** The victory belonged to Him, and He alone deserved the glory.

Throughout this chapter, we see the difference between those who willingly served the Lord and those who remained unwilling to act. Some tribes responded courageously when called to battle, while others chose to remain comfortable and uninvolved. Their contrasting responses remind us that God's people are called to faithful obedience, not merely to acknowledge His commands. When the Lord provides opportunities to serve Him, we should respond with willing hearts rather than allowing fear, convenience, or personal interests to determine our actions.

The song also reminds us that God accomplishes His purposes through ordinary people and unexpected circumstances. Deborah, Barak, and Jael all played different roles in Israel's deliverance, but none could claim the victory as their own. God directed the outcome, demonstrating His sovereign power over both human affairs and creation itself. His faithfulness did not depend upon Israel's strength but upon His own covenant purposes.

As we study Judges 5 this week, we should consider how we respond to God's faithfulness. *Do we give Him the glory for what He accomplishes*? *Are we willing to serve when obedience requires sacrifice*? *Do we recognize His sovereign hand even when His methods are unexpected*? **Most importantly**, *do we remember that our greatest victory is not something we accomplish for ourselves, but something* ***Jesus Christ has accomplished for us through His death and resurrection****?*

The central lesson of Judges 5 is that God's people should respond to His sovereign deliverance with grateful worship, willing obedience, and wholehearted devotion to His glory.

Monday: Praise the Lord for His Faithfulness

Reading: Judges 5:1–5

Focus Verse: Judges 5:3 (ESV)

"*Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the LORD I will sing; I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.*"

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

Study Question:

Why do Deborah and Barak begin their song by praising the Lord rather than celebrating their own accomplishments? What does their description of God's appearance in verses 4–5 reveal about His power and authority?

Personal Application:

It is easy to acknowledge God's goodness when we pray for something, yet forget to praise Him when He answers. Deborah and Barak understood that their victory was not the result of their own strength but the Lord's gracious intervention. Their first response was worship.

We should develop the same attitude toward God's work in our lives. Whether He provides for our needs, strengthens us through difficulties, or gives us opportunities to serve, we should recognize His faithfulness and give Him the glory.

Take time today to remember specific ways God has demonstrated His goodness toward you. Thank Him for these blessings, and consider how you might share His faithfulness with someone who needs encouragement.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Psalm 115:1.

example: Heavenly Father, You alone deserve the glory for every good thing in my life. Forgive me when I take credit for what You have accomplished or fail to recognize Your faithfulness. Teach me to praise You in every circumstance and to remember that all my strength, wisdom, and blessings come from Your gracious hand. May my words and actions direct others toward Your glory rather than my own. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tuesday: Remember What God Has Done

Reading: Judges 5:6–11

Focus Verse: Judges 5:11 (ESV)

"There they repeat the righteous triumphs of the LORD, the righteous triumphs of his villagers in Israel."

Study Question:

How does Deborah describe Israel's condition before God delivered His people? Why was it important for the Israelites to remember both their former oppression and the Lord's righteous acts of deliverance?

Personal Application:

Before God delivered Israel, the people experienced fear, insecurity, and oppression. Travel had become dangerous, villages were abandoned, and daily life was disrupted. Yet God had not forgotten His people. He raised up Deborah and brought about their deliverance.

Remembering what God has done strengthens our faith because it reminds us of His unchanging character. When we face uncertainty, we can look back upon His faithfulness and trust that He remains sovereign over our present circumstances.

Christians have an even greater reason to remember God's mighty works. Through Jesus Christ, God has delivered His people from the guilt and condemnation of sin. We should never allow the blessings of salvation to become so familiar that we cease to marvel at His grace.

Consider sharing your testimony or a specific example of God's faithfulness with someone this week. Your remembrance of His goodness may encourage another believer to trust Him more deeply.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Psalm 77:11–12.

example: Gracious Father, thank You for the countless ways You have demonstrated Your faithfulness throughout history and in my own life. Forgive me when I become so focused on my present difficulties that I forget Your past mercies. Help me remember Your mighty works, especially the salvation You have provided through Jesus Christ. Strengthen my faith through Your Word, and give me opportunities to encourage others by speaking of Your goodness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Wednesday: Willing Hearts in the Service of God

Reading: Judges 5:12–18

Focus Verse: Judges 5:18 (ESV)

"Zebulun is a people who risked their lives to the death; Naphtali, too, on the heights of the field."

Study Question:

What differences does Deborah identify between the tribes that willingly joined the battle and those that remained behind? What do these contrasting responses reveal about the priorities and commitments of God's people?

Personal Application:

Deborah's song recognizes the courage of those who willingly answered the call to battle. Zebulun and Naphtali risked their lives, while others remained occupied with their own interests and responsibilities. The contrast reveals that God's people did not respond equally when the opportunity to serve arose.

This passage challenges us to examine our own willingness to serve the Lord. We may not be called to a battlefield, but Christ has called every believer to serve within His church and participate in the work of making disciples. Some teach, some encourage, some provide practical assistance, and others faithfully pray. Every act of service matters when it is offered in obedience to God.

We should be careful not to allow comfort, convenience, or personal preferences to become excuses for neglecting the responsibilities God has placed before us.

Consider whether there is a need within your congregation that you have been reluctant to address. Ask the Lord to give you a willing heart and the wisdom to serve faithfully according to the abilities and opportunities He has provided.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Romans 12:11.

example: Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to serve You and for giving me a place within the body of Christ. Forgive me when I allow comfort, fear, or selfishness to keep me from serving others. Give me a willing heart that delights in obedience to Your Word. Help me recognize the needs of my congregation and respond with humility, generosity, and love. May my service bring glory to Christ and strengthen His church. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thursday: The Lord Fights for His People

Reading: Judges 5:19–23

Focus Verse: Judges 5:20 (ESV)

"*From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera*."

Study Question:

How does Deborah describe God's involvement in the battle against Sisera? What does the imagery of the stars and the torrent Kishon reveal about the Lord's sovereign authority over creation and human events?

Personal Application:

The Canaanite army possessed superior military equipment, including iron chariots, yet their strength could not overcome the purposes of God. Deborah's song describes the heavens fighting against Sisera and the Kishon River sweeping away his forces. These descriptions emphasize that creation itself is subject to the Lord's authority.

God's sovereignty should give believers confidence, particularly when circumstances appear overwhelming. We may face difficulties that exceed our abilities, but nothing lies beyond the power or knowledge of our heavenly Father.

However, trusting God's sovereignty does not mean expecting every difficulty to end according to our desires. It means recognizing that He is wise, good, and faithful, even when His purposes are difficult for us to understand.

Our greatest assurance comes through Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death. Because He reigns over all things, we can remain faithful even when obedience involves hardship or suffering.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Psalm 46:1–3.

example: Almighty God, You are sovereign over heaven and earth, and nothing can prevent You from accomplishing Your purposes. Forgive me when I place greater confidence in human strength than in Your wisdom and power. When difficulties arise, remind me that You are my refuge and strength. Help me trust Your promises, submit to Your will, and remain faithful regardless of my circumstances. Thank You for the victory over sin and death accomplished through Jesus Christ. In His name, amen.

Friday: God Uses the Unexpected to Accomplish His Purposes

Reading: Judges 5:24–27

Focus Verse: Judges 5:24 (ESV)

"*Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed*."

Study Question:

Why does Deborah's song give special recognition to Jael? How does her role in Sisera's defeat demonstrate that God is not dependent upon human expectations, military strength, or social position to accomplish His purposes?

Personal Application:

Jael was not a soldier or military commander. Yet God used her unexpected actions to bring about the defeat of Sisera, just as Deborah had foretold in Judges 4:9. Her involvement reminds us that the Lord is not limited by human expectations when accomplishing His will.

The account also describes a violent act of judgment within a particular historical setting. We should not treat Jael's actions as permission for personal vengeance or violence. Instead, we should recognize the larger truth that God accomplished His promised deliverance in a way that demonstrated His power rather than human greatness.

We often underestimate what God can accomplish through people who seem ordinary or insignificant. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows that the Lord delights in using the weak and humble so that His glory will be clearly displayed.

Do not assume that your age, abilities, circumstances, or limitations make you useless in the service of Christ. Faithfully use the opportunities He has given you, trusting Him with the results.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through 1 Corinthians 1:27–29.

example: Gracious Lord, thank You that Your purposes do not depend upon human greatness or strength. Forgive me when I underestimate what You can accomplish through ordinary people or when I become prideful about my own abilities. Give me humility, courage, and a willingness to serve wherever You have placed me. Help me remain faithful in the responsibilities You have entrusted to me, remembering that all glory belongs to You alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

Saturday: Loving the Lord and Living in His Light

Reading: Judges 5:28–31

Focus Verse: Judges 5:31 (ESV)

"*So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.*"

Study Question:

How does the conclusion of Deborah's song contrast the fate of God's enemies with the blessing desired for those who love Him? What does this contrast reveal about God's justice, His covenant faithfulness, and the importance of belonging to Him?

Personal Application:

Deborah's song concludes with a striking contrast. Those who oppose the Lord face judgment, while those who love Him are compared to the rising sun in its strength. The chapter then tells us that the land experienced forty years of rest.

This ending reminds us that God's deliverance is inseparable from His righteousness. He is gracious and merciful, but He is also holy and just. His enemies cannot ultimately prevail against Him.

For Christians, this truth directs our attention toward Jesus Christ. Through His perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, Christ has secured eternal salvation for everyone who trusts in Him. Those who belong to Him have no reason to fear God's final judgment, because Christ has borne the condemnation their sins deserved.

As we conclude this week's study, consider whether your life demonstrates genuine love for the Lord. Loving God involves more than expressing gratitude for His blessings. It means trusting His promises, obeying His Word, loving His people, and seeking His glory.

Ask yourself whether others can see the light of Christ reflected in your attitudes, priorities, and daily conduct.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through John 8:12.

example: Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, to deliver sinners from darkness and bring them into eternal life. Forgive me when my actions fail to reflect the love and holiness of my Savior. Strengthen my faith, deepen my love for Your Word, and help me walk in obedience to Your commands. May my life bear witness to the transforming power of Your grace, and may others be drawn to Christ through my words and actions. In His precious name, amen.

Closing Thought:

The Victory Belongs to the Lord

Judges 5 reminds us that the Lord is both the source of His people's deliverance and the rightful object of their worship. Deborah and Barak understood that their victory over Sisera was not accomplished through military strength or human wisdom. God had acted on behalf of His people, and their proper response was to praise His name and remember His mighty works.

The chapter also challenges us to examine our willingness to serve. Some Israelites responded courageously when called upon, while others remained behind. Their contrasting actions remind us that faithful obedience often requires sacrifice. God's people should not be satisfied merely to observe the work of His kingdom while expecting others to carry its responsibilities. Every believer has been called to serve Christ, encourage fellow believers, and participate in the mission He has entrusted to His church.

However, we must remember that our obedience does not earn God's favor or secure our salvation. Just as Israel's deliverance ultimately depended upon the Lord rather than its own strength, our salvation rests entirely upon the finished work of Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, He has accomplished a victory greater than any earthly deliverance. He has conquered sin and death, reconciled His people to God the Father, and secured their eternal inheritance.

Therefore, we do not serve Jesus in an effort to earn His grace. We serve because His grace has already been given to us. Our obedience is a grateful response to the salvation He has accomplished, and our worship is an acknowledgment that every good thing comes from His hand.

As you reflect upon Judges 5, remember that the Lord who delivered Israel is the same sovereign God who rules over all creation today. His purposes cannot be defeated, His promises cannot fail, and His glory cannot be diminished. Let us respond to His faithfulness with grateful hearts, willing hands, and lives devoted to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

May we be a people who remember God's mighty works, willingly serve His purposes, and give Him all the glory for the victory He has accomplished through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.