

## Doctrine of Deborah

Introduction:

1. Israel disobeys God. During the lifetime of Ehud Israel remained true to the Lord. Subsequently, however, a fresh outbreak of idolatry ushered in another period of oppression.

Jdg 3:13 Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms.

Jdg 3:14 The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years.

2. Who was Ehud?

2.1 Ehud was the son of Gera of the tribe of Benjamin, who was noted for being "a man lefthanded." He was a judge famous for killing Eglon king of Moab who subjugated the tribe of Benjamin.

2.2 Ehud was raised up by God as the second deliverer among the judges. Through Ehud's leadership the 18 years of Moabite rule over Israel was ended. This was accomplished by a clever ruse.

2.3 Israel knew God was "their hope." They cried out to the Lord for help and he answered by sending Ehud.

Jdg 3:15 Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer -- Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

Jdg 3:16 Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a foot and a half long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing.

Jdg 3:17 He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man.

Jdg 3:18 After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way the men who had carried it.

Jdg 3:19 At the idols near Gilgal he himself turned back and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." The king said, "Quiet!" And all his attendants left him.

Jdg 3:20 Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his summer palace and said, "I have a message from God for you." As the king rose from his seat,

Jdg 3:21 Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king's belly.

Jdg 3:22 Even the handle sank in after the blade, which came out his back. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it.

Jdg 3:23 Then Ehud went out to the porch; he shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

Jdg 3:24 After he had gone, the servants came and found the doors of the upper room locked. They said, "He must be relieving himself in the inner room of the house."

Jdg 3:25 They waited to the point of embarrassment, but when he did not open the doors of the room, they took a key and unlocked them. There they saw their lord fallen to the floor, dead.

Jdg 3:26 While they waited, Ehud got away. He passed by the idols and escaped to Seirah.

Jdg 3:27 When he arrived there, he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went down with him from the hills, with him leading them.

2.4 Not even Israel knew of his secret mission to Eglon. He was able to gain a private audience with Eglon by indicating that he had secret information for the king, and was able to slay the Moabite king in his rooftop chamber with his concealed and specially crafted two-edged sword. Due to the ineptness of Eglon's servants, Ehud escaped without detection.

2.5 The judge then marshaled the Israelites together in the hills of Ephraim and led them in battle against Moab. Ehud's battle strategy was based on the control of the fords of Jordan. Without the leadership of their king, Moab was defeated. In Jdg 3:28 Ehud acknowledged the hand of God in this victory. The land then had relative peace for 80 years.

Jdg 4:1 After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

Jdg 4:2 So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim.

Jdg 4:3 Because he had nine hundred iron chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Jdg 4:4 Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

Jdg 4:5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided.

Jdg 4:6 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 the way to Mount Tabor.

Jdg 4:7 I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

Jdg 4:8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

Jdg 4:9 "Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh,

Jdg 4:10 where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.

Jdg 4:11 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 Zaananim near Kedesh.

Jdg 4:12 When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

Jdg 4:13 Sisera gathered together his nine hundred iron chariots and all the men with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

Jdg 4:14 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, followed by ten thousand men.

Jdg 4:15 At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot.

Jdg 4:16 But Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left.

Jdg 4:17 Sisera, however, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there were friendly relations between Jabin king of Hazor and the clan of Heber the Kenite.

Jdg 4:18 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 put a covering over him.

Jdg 4:19 "I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water." She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

Jdg 4:20 "Stand in the doorway of the tent," he told her. "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say 'No.'"

Jdg 4:21 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.

Jdg 4:22 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.

Jdg 4:23 On that day God subdued Jabin, the Canaanite king, before the Israelites.

Jdg 4:24 And the hand of the Israelites grew stronger and stronger against Jabin, the Canaanite king, until they destroyed him.

### 3. The triumphant song of Deborah

Jdg 5:1 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,

Jdg 5:2 Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

Jdg 5:3 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

Jdg 5:4 LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

Jdg 5:5 The mountains melted from before the LORD, even that Sinai from before the LORD God of Israel.

Jdg 5:6 In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.

Jdg 5:7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

Jdg 5:8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

Jdg 5:9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

Jdg 5:10 Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way.

Jdg 5:11 They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the LORD go down to the gates.

Jdg 5:12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

Jdg 5:13 Then he made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the LORD made me have dominion over the mighty.

Jdg 5:14 Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.

Jdg 5:15 And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.

Jdg 5:16 Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

Jdg 5:17 Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.

Jdg 5:18 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

Jdg 5:19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.

Jdg 5:20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

Jdg 5:21 The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.

Jdg 5:22 Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

Jdg 5:23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

Jdg 5:24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

Jdg 5:25 He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.

Jdg 5:26 She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

Jdg 5:27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: where he bowed, there he fell down dead.

Jdg 5:28 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?

Jdg 5:29 Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself,

Jdg 5:30 Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?

Jdg 5:31 So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.