

Our God is Behind the Deliverer

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Judges 4:1-24

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

A Tragic Situation 1-3

- A downward spiral 1-2 *again did what was evil...*
- Key person here is Jaban - a Canaanite king used by God
- Difference between Religious Reformation & Spiritual Revival
 - RR=temporally changes outward conduct
 - SR=permanently alters inward character!
- Under Ehud Israel only accepted Religious Reformation :(
- 4 Israel cried out to the Lord - not repentance - *LESSON: to ask God for comfort & not cleansing is only to sow seeds of selfishness that will only produce another bitter harvest.*
- Seek God's Glory 1st - Amos 5:4; Psa 51:10; 139:23-24

Deborah - God's Mouthpiece 4-7

- God raises Deborah - an act of grace & humiliation Is 3:12
- God treated His people like children - Deborah=mother^{Jdg5:7}
- Male Levites failed to declare God's truth so God worked through faithful woman.
- God chose: mouthpiece (Deborah); troubler (Sisera); deliverer (Barak); place (by river); God gave victory!

Barak - a reluctant participant? 8-10

- Barak not a judge - military man from tribe of Naphtali
- Not alone in reluctance: Moses (Ex 3-4); Gideon (Jdg 6); Jeremiah (Jer 1). Barak simply lacked faith:

FAITH is: Believing the Word of God (Heb 11:1; Rm 10:17) and ACTING upon it (Jms 1:22-25; Jn 3:36) NO matter how I FEEL (Heb 11) KNOWING that God promises a GOOD RESULT! (Heb 11:6; Rm 8:28-29)

- We are too often like Barak - we lack faith! We can (if we are in Christ):
 - Love regardless how others act - 1 Jn 4:11
 - Forgive others because of Christ - Eph 4:32
 - What do you need to do in obedience to God?
- Perhaps Barak asked Deborah to go for other reasons...

God Grants the Victory 11-23

- As always - God is the leading Actor!

Sisera is Warned 11-12

- God uses Heber to notify Sisera & get him to move his army to where God wanted to trap him

Sisera is Defeated 13-16

- Sisera has 900 chariots!... no match for God
- God flooded battlefield^{Jdg5:20-22} so chariots useless
- Sisera & army fled

Sisera is Slain 17-23

- Sisera runs to Heber's house (ally)
- Jael invites him into her tent, covers w/ blanket & kills him!
- God said a woman would kill Sisera ^{Jdg 4:9}
- Jael is commended^{Jdg5:24} - for being God's tool

Lessons for Us

- Nothing new under the sun (Ecc 4)
- Because God's people were once again disobedient and unfaithful, God uses their failures to discipline them
- God uses means (Jael, Israel, Sisera) for His purposes
- God will always accomplish His purposes no matter how great the opposition may seem!

- Are you a Deborah? An unlikely candidate who will be faithful to speak the timeless truth of our Gracious God? Will you boldly call others to hear & obey God's Word?

- Are you a Barak? A timid, hesitant person who will in the end be faithful to listen to God and His faithful servant? Despite his hesitancy, God used Barak!

- WALK IN FAITH:

FAITH is:

Believing the Word of God (Heb 11:1; Rm 10:17)

and ACTING upon it (Jms 1:22-25; Jn 3:36)

NO matter how I FEEL (Heb 11)

KNOWING that my God promises a

GOOD RESULT! (Heb 11:6; Rm 8:28-29)