

**Timeline of Truth: Judges 5:1-31, Deborah and Barak Lead a Celebration of God's Victory Over Israel's Enemies**

<p><sup>5:1</sup> Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam <b>sang</b> on that day, saying:</p>	<p><b>1. Deborah and Barak Sing a Song of Celebration</b></p>
<p><sup>2</sup> "When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the <b>LORD!</b></p>	<p><b>2. When Leaders Lead, and People Follow</b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> "Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, <i>even I</i>, will sing to the <b>LORD</b>; I will sing praise to the <b>LORD</b> God of Israel. <sup>4</sup> "<b>LORD</b>, when You went out from Seir, when You marched from the field of Edom, The earth trembled and the heavens poured, The clouds also poured water; <sup>5</sup> The mountains gushed before the <b>LORD</b>, This Sinai, before the <b>LORD</b> God of Israel.</p>	<p><b>3. God Acted on Behalf of His People</b></p> <p>a. <b>LORD is mentioned 14x in the song</b></p> <p>b. <b>God caused rain and a flood</b></p>
<p><sup>6</sup> "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways. <sup>7</sup> Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, <u>Deborah</u>, arose, Arose a mother in Israel. <sup>8</sup> They chose new gods; Then <i>there was</i> war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.</p>	<p><b>4. The state of Israel up to this point</b></p> <p><b>5. Deborah's Help for Israel</b></p> <p>a. <b>The action of Israel</b></p>
<p><sup>9</sup> My heart <i>is</i> with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless the <b>LORD!</b></p>	<p>b. <b>Review of the key point (cp. v. 2)</b></p>
<p><sup>10</sup> "Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road. <sup>11</sup> Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the <b>LORD</b>, The righteous acts <i>for</i> His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the <b>LORD</b> shall go down to the gates.</p>	<p>c. <b>The uninvolved leaders</b></p> <p>d. <b>Recounting the actions of the LORD</b></p> <p>e. <b>Recounting the actions of the people</b></p>
<p><sup>12</sup> "Awake, awake, <u>Deborah!</u> Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, <u>Barak</u>, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam! <sup>13</sup> "Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles; The <b>LORD</b> came down for me against the mighty. <sup>14</sup> From Ephraim <i>were</i> those whose roots were in Amalek. After you, Benjamin, with your peoples, From Machir rulers came down, And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff. <sup>15</sup> And the princes of Issachar <i>were</i> with <u>Deborah</u>; As Issachar, so was <u>Barak</u> Sent into the valley under his command; Among the divisions of Reuben <i>There were</i> great resolves of heart. <sup>16</sup> Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the pipings for the flocks? The divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart. <sup>17</sup> Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, And why did Dan remain on ships? Asher continued at the seashore, And stayed by his inlets. <sup>18</sup> Zebulun <i>is</i> a people <i>who</i> jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.</p>	<p><b>6. A Review of Those Involved</b></p> <p>a. <b>Deborah – Her spiritual encouragement</b></p> <p>b. <b>Barak – His military leadership (v.15)</b></p> <p>c. <b>The LORD</b></p> <p>d. <b>Volunteers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ephraim</i></li> <li>• <i>Benjamin</i></li> <li>• <i>Manasseh (Machier = Manasseh's oldest son)</i></li> <li>• <i>Zebulun (v.18 – extra mention of bravery)</i></li> <li>• <i>Issachar</i></li> <li>• <i>Naphtali (v.18 – extra mention of bravery)</i></li> </ul> <p>e. <b>AWOL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reuben</i></li> <li>• <i>Gad (Gilead)</i></li> <li>• <i>Dan</i></li> <li>• <i>Asher</i></li> <li>• <i>Judah and Simeon (not even mentioned)</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>19</sup> "The kings came <i>and</i> fought, Then the kings of Canaan fought In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; They took no spoils of silver. <sup>20</sup> They fought from the heavens; The stars from their courses fought against Sisera. <sup>21</sup> The torrent of Kishon swept them away, That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength! <sup>22</sup> Then the horses' hooves pounded, The galloping, galloping of his steeds.</p>	<p><b>7. A Picture of the Battle</b></p> <p>a. <b>The failed enemy and locations</b></p> <p>b. <b>God's signs from the heavens</b></p> <p>c. <b>God's floods on the earth</b></p> <p>d. <b>The chasing away of the horses?</b></p>

<p><sup>23</sup> 'Curse Meroz,' said <u>the angel of the LORD</u>, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'</p>	<p><b>8. Failure of a City to Help</b> <b>a. Angel of the LORD = Deborah?</b></p>
<p><sup>24</sup> "Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents. <sup>25</sup> He asked for water, she gave milk; She brought out cream in a lordly bowl. <sup>26</sup> She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple. <sup>27</sup> At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.</p>	<p><b>9. The Blessing of Jael for Her Actions</b></p>
<p><sup>28</sup> "The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?' <sup>29</sup> Her wisest ladies answered her, Yes, she answered herself, <sup>30</sup> 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil: To every man a girl or two; For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments, Plunder of garments Embroidered and dyed, Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?'</p>	<p><b>10. Sisera's Mother Shares the Enemy's View</b></p>
<p><sup>31</sup> "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But <i>let</i> those who love Him <i>be</i> like the sun When it comes out in full strength."</p>	<p><b>11. The Final Curse and Blessing</b></p>
<p>So the land had rest for forty years.</p>	<p><b>12. The Length of Rest</b></p>

**What's wrong?**

1. Lack of tribal participation. 4 north tribes (Reuben, Gad, Dan, Asshur) failed to help.
2. Southern tribes are not mentioned at all in Ch 4-5.
3. Hazor repopulated indicates Israel has failed to enforce the ban (Josh 11).

**Where's God?**

1. 5:4,21 – Yahweh is the storm deity, instead of Baal.
2. 5:20 – the stars fought from heaven

What I think is happening here is similar to what God did in Josh 10 with the Amorites. I think God is using the stars against the Canaanites here. In other words, God is arranging negative celestial omens because (let's face it) the Canaanites before they go to battle, they're looking at all the omens, they're reading the stars, and so forth. They want to know whether they will be successful in battle, and what we're told here is that God is actually putting negative omens in the sky to communicate defeat to the Canaanites. This actually sets the Canaanites into a panic, and it's one of the ways that God brings victory here for Israel. – Way, K. C. (2016). *OT217 Interpreting Judges*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

**Summary:**

1. God's plan involves leaders \_\_\_\_\_ willingly and people \_\_\_\_\_ willingly.
2. Spiritual obedience often yields visible \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's decisive victories should be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Spiritual obedience is evidenced by corporal \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Spiritual disobedience is evidenced by selfish endeavors that leave out the greater \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole.