

**“Don’t Sit Out of the Battle”**  
**Judges 5:1-31**  
**November 17, 2019**

<sup>1</sup> *Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying...*

**I. The Evils Sin Brings**

<sup>6</sup> *“In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, In the days of Jael, the highways were deserted, And travelers went by roundabout ways. <sup>7</sup> “The peasantry ceased, they ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Until I arose, a mother in Israel. <sup>8</sup> “New gods were chosen; Then war was in the gates. Not a shield or a spear was seen Among forty thousand in Israel.*

- A. Israel was decimated financially and militarily.
- B. This was a consequence of the nations idolatry.

**II. The Goodness of God’s People Fighting Together**

<sup>2</sup> *“That the leaders led in Israel, That the people volunteered, Bless the Lord! <sup>9</sup> “My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel, The volunteers among the people; Bless the Lord! Then the people of the Lord went down to the gates. <sup>12</sup> “Awake, awake, Deborah; Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and take away your captives, O son of Abinoam. <sup>13</sup> “Then survivors came down to the nobles; The people of the Lord came down to me as warriors. <sup>14</sup> “From Ephraim those whose root is in Amalek came down, Following you, Benjamin, with your peoples; From Machir commanders came down, And from Zebulun those who wield the staff of office. <sup>15</sup> “And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; As was Issachar, so was Barak; Into the valley they rushed at his heels; <sup>18</sup> “Zebulun was a people who despised their lives even to death, And Naphtali also, on the high places of the field.*

- A. God’s people are called to fight for themselves.
- B. God’s people are called to fight with and for each other.

**III. The Evil of God’s People Refusing to Join in the Fight**

<sup>15b</sup> *Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart. <sup>16</sup> “Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the piping for the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart. <sup>17</sup> “Gilead remained across the Jordan; And why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore, And remained by its landings. <sup>23</sup> ‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the Lord, ‘Utterly curse its inhabitants; Because they did not come to the help of the Lord, To the help of the Lord against the warriors.’*

- A. It’s a bad thing when God’s people refuse to fight.

It’s a sign that something is truly wrong spiritually.

**Hebrews 10:37–38** - <sup>37</sup> *For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.*  
<sup>38</sup> *But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

**IV. The Goodness of God’s Participation in the Fight**

<sup>3</sup> *“Hear, O kings; give ear, O rulers! I—to the Lord, I will sing, I will sing praise to the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>4</sup> “Lord, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, Even the clouds dripped water. <sup>5</sup> “The mountains quaked at the presence of the Lord, This Sinai, at the presence of the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>10</sup> “You who ride on white donkeys, You who sit on rich carpets, And you who travel on the road—sing! <sup>11</sup> “At the sound of those who divide flocks among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous deeds of the Lord, The righteous deeds for His*

peasantry in Israel. <sup>19</sup> “The kings came and fought; Then fought the kings of Canaan At Taanach near the waters of Megiddo; They took no plunder in silver. <sup>20</sup> “The stars fought from heaven, From their courses they fought against Sisera. <sup>21</sup> “The torrent of Kishon swept them away, The ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. O my soul, march on with strength. <sup>22</sup> “Then the horses’ hoofs beat From the dashing, the dashing of his valiant steeds.

- A. The battle is the Lord’s ultimately.
- B. It is He who gives the victory.

*1 Corinthians 15:56–57* - <sup>56</sup> *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;* <sup>57</sup> *but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## V. The Goodness of Evil Conquered and God’s People Preserved

<sup>24</sup> “Most blessed of women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Most blessed is she of women in the tent. <sup>25</sup> “He asked for water and she gave him milk; In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds. <sup>26</sup> “She reached out her hand for the tent peg, And her right hand for the workmen’s hammer. Then she struck Sisera, she smashed his head; And she shattered and pierced his temple. <sup>27</sup> “Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay; Between her feet he bowed, he fell; Where he bowed, there he fell dead. <sup>28</sup> “Out of the window she looked and lamented, The mother of Sisera through the lattice, ‘Why does his chariot delay in coming? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots tarry?’ <sup>29</sup> “Her wise princesses would answer her, Indeed she repeats her words to herself, <sup>30</sup> ‘Are they not finding, are they not dividing the spoil? A maiden, two maidens for every warrior; To Sisera a spoil of dyed work, A spoil of dyed work embroidered, Dyed work of double embroidery on the neck of the spoiler?’ <sup>31</sup> “Thus let all Your enemies perish, O Lord; But let those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its might.” And the land was undisturbed for forty years.

- A. One day all our enemies will be defeated.
- B. We will be undisturbed by them... forever.