

....They Chose New Gods

<<< Judges Chapter Five

~ **We are studying** a period in the history of the nation Israel in which lawlessness has resulted in the people forsaking the True and Living God; and every man doing what was right in his own eyes. At this point in our Spiritual Safari, hard times have come upon Israel, and it wasn't even safe to travel the roads across the land. There was no defense against the enemy, and there was no man who would assume leadership. Well, in the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God we saw a mother, Deborah, step up and take the lead no man was willing to - and going out to fight. She wasn't content to allow her children to grow up in that type of a world – one full of anarchy and lawlessness.

We first met Deborah dwelling under the “palm tree of Deborah” in the last chapter; and her husband received only a passing mention. As we concluded, he must have been a Christian Tragedy to be dismissed as he was. There was a hit song years ago entitled “Twenty-Nine Palms” – but in this report, we're seeing a song we might simply call “One Palm!” We also saw Deborah call upon the General of the Army to swing into action but, he, too, said he couldn't go fight without a woman holding his hand. Apparently, old man Barak is Christian Tragedy number two in the land at this time. Barak wasn't doing his job; and, if it had been left up to him, Israel would never again have been delivered from slavery. Well, because Deborah was willing to obey the voice of the Lord, they were given a marvelous victory. They exterminated the army, and Sisera fled on foot - only to be killed by what he thought was his friend.

We were in the northern part of Israel when we concluded our last report; and we saw a Gentile woman, Jael, roll out the red carpet and royally nail old man king Sisera to the ground, literally, with a tent nail; which would have been about a fourteen-inch spike. We're studying some extremely dark days in the land and the accounts we are given throughout this section of Scripture – well – they aren't pretty. These are not lovely mental pictures for us to think on. I am absolutely sure most people have no clue what the

Word of God really teaches; most erroneously believe it's all about love and prosperity; and that the Bible is just going to result in living happily ever after - irrespective of our walk and works. Obviously, they have the Bible confused with their fairy tales; most people seem to just combine the two like some sort of spiritual cocktail at a pious happy hour anyways. Well, this safari is going to separate and identify the molecular structure of it all for you, I promise you that, my beloved readers.

After those things, Deborah sang this song. This is poetic language, to be sure. She wasn't looking for a job – she was a mother; and I'm sure she wanted to be a "stay at home" mother. Her taking the lead only reflects her obedience to the True and Living God. This was God's choice for one of the outstanding judges of His people at the time in which we are studying. Of course, none of the judges were truly outstanding; but Deborah and Othniel certainly exceeded any of the rest; at least, that's my estimation.

History gives us other examples of women in leadership: Zenobia - Queen of the Palmyrene Empire of Syria, Joan of Arc and Mary Ludwig Hays, a.k.a. Molly Pitcher at the battle of Monmouth; but none of those were quite the Deborah of the Bible; and, either way, it's an indication of decline when a woman comes into the position of authority in a nation. Now, don't bother writing me back trying to straighten me out because – guess what? – it is YOU who is wrong if you disagree with that. It's no bad reflection on womanhood, either; it just happens to be an awful reflection on manhood when womanhood takes the lead. It's a sign of weakness; a sign of a degenerate and perverted age. As we have already considered: Barak the general was nothing but a sissy! I think Barak's true intention was to just stay home and do nothing.

Dr. Harry A. Ironside tells the story of a woman preacher in Oakland, California. He and a friend were passing by a park where she was preaching one day. The doctor's friend deplored the fact there was a woman preaching; and he commented about how it was a shame a woman was preaching the Bible. Many people think a woman shouldn't be doing any preaching or teaching. I, personally, agree it's a shame – but not so much shameful that a woman preaches as it is that there's no man to take over

for her. Further, and irrespective of this modern age of women's rights and the equality fiasco, America has paid a terrible and tragic price since the nineteen-forties for bringing women into the defense of this country.

The same goes for industry, too, and – friends – I know none of this is popular; but it's the primary reason for our tsunami of immorality. Again, don't bother trying to straighten me out; if you don't agree – don't read my reports. YOU are the one who is in error if you disagree. Frankly, most of you don't support my missionary effort anyways – so, I don't concern myself with what is mistakenly assumed. Any regular reader of this so-called safari knows I am no prophet. I don't claim any label of the sort; but this situation is what's happening - and it's only going to get worse. We have an epidemic of women killing their children and husbands. Candidly, we can talk about the menaces to our country and world all day long – complain of corrupt politicians, economic failure and the brutal oppression of the poor, drugs, socialism, fighting wars we do not intend to win – and more – BUT – the BIGGEST problem we have on every single continent of the world is IN THE HOME. That is the place where women are supposed to play their most vital role in any society; and it's the single biggest neglected area of life.

I don't think Deborah really wanted to be the leader. Jabin was the king of the Canaanites when God sold them into his hands. When the time for deliverance came, Barak was commanding the army of Israel; but Barak had no intention of doing anything about the situation. However, God had promised them deliverance, so there was going to be deliverance. It was ignominious for Barak to be treated this way, to be sure. However, after the battle, when there was a great victory, old man Barak was sure willing to sing along with Deborah in her song. Deborah composed this while Barak composed himself. We have seen a few songs so far on safari, but this is a mother's song....

V

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

~ Remember, Shamgar had been the one who went around slaying the enemy with an ox goad. In that day, Israel had to sneak around through back alleys – if they even went anywhere at all. This is a terrible day we are examining. Grave immorality is the rule of disorder at the time in which we are studying. Corruption, fraud and deceit were standard operating procedure. It wasn't safe to take the main highway in Deborah's day. There was an utter refusal by the leaders of the tribes to act against anything ungodly. This woman with a mother's heart had no intention of taking the lead; and if there had been a man to do so, she would have stayed at home with the kids. She wanted something better for her children than the total state of anarchy that she saw all around her. Again, it's just a pure tragedy we are considering right now. This is all a DIRECT result of a nation denying the Lord God Who had miraculously delivered them so many times before....

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

~ The only distinction between the culture we are studying and our contemporary society is the polytheist of old has become the modern-day atheist. Of course, the so-called "atheist" today is really worshipping multiple idols; they're just too stupid to know the difference. Multitudes think they have no god; but they absolutely bow down every day to bank accounts, careers, homes, vehicles, clothes, food, friends and family members and any number of assorted gadgets that they are too foolish to recognize consume and abjectly waste their time. Their lives are futile. They sense it - but the awareness is very dim.

Not Deborah, though - she was having no part of those things; and so, she stepped out in faith. After WWII, American's thought they were going to live happily ever after in peace and sin. While we were touting the Psalm "... peace and righteousness have kissed each other" we lost sight of the fact that "peace" and "righteousness" don't speak to each other anymore. In fact, they don't even KNOW each other; and never have! Who do we think we are kidding? The liberal is so horribly wrong. Verse eight reveals the nation Israel had absolutely NO defensive mechanism in place whatsoever....

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

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

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.

~ To be fair, there were a few who did still desire God and wanted to do what was right. Deborah wants them to know she supported them. The "gates" were the meeting places – the town hall, if you will – but Deborah wasn't going there to talk about peace and love and the commonplace

idiocy of her day, which didn't amount to anything; she says they are going to talk about the True and Living God and the things of Jehovah – about the righteous acts of the God of Israel. This is a tremendous passage of Scripture; one that I am sure most Christians have no idea even exists – and the ones who do know it exists don't fully lay hold of it properly, correctly and completely. I know I don't....

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

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

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.

~ Once the writer started writing, some of the other tribes finally joined in. That is a stream of cool, refreshing water to my parched soul, my safari friends. Unfortunately, some of the tribes still refuse to join in and help – and one of those tribes was Reuben. No reinforcements were forthcoming from Reuben. They chose not to supply the support that should have been provided. This is a close-by brother we're talking about. Reuben felt like their career of flock-keeping was more important than their brothers well-being. This tribe of Reuben hid their heads in the sand and acted as if there was nothing wrong; and as if their brothers didn't need their help anyway. Neither did Dan, who was, likewise, preoccupied with commerce. Are you noticing the underlying theme of the love of money here? Asher was too busy getting a suntan and holding beauty pageants on the beach. We all might want to make some personal inventories here.

Human nature never changes, my beloved. America has come through two world wars and countless other wars – some of them we don't even call war anymore. These things we are examining are commonplace in this present world society. Many people have gone into big business for themselves, and they aren't ABOUT to help someone like me get the Word

of God out to the entire world – they just are not going to do it. Quite frankly, I'm not sure many readers really search their hearts; I don't see us examining ourselves. I certainly don't see us asking God to search our hearts to see if there be iniquity in us – because there IS iniquity in there – and we know it – or maybe you don't. Maybe I shouldn't talk like this, but I feel as if I am thoroughly letting God down - because I am....

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.

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.

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

18 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeoparded their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

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.

~ Here, we see two faithful brothers come to help; and we also see alliances formed with people who are former enemies. This all took place where Armageddon will take place someday, too, by the way. Don't think for one moment this is poetic or symbolic language in any way. In this particular case, the meaning is that Heaven – God – Himself – is against this enemy. I think this might be one of the most important reports from the Word of God I'll ever bring, or you'll ever read....

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

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

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

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.

~ Now, I have no idea who “Meroz” is or was. We have no way to know because the Bible doesn't tell us; but one thing I do know: I don't want to be them – or an inhabitant of their city. They sure didn't come to help the work of the Lord. There are MULTITUDES of people reading these reports who are not coming to the help of the work of the Word of the Lord, too. As we read on, we see that Jael – not Barak – was the heroin. God isn't apologizing for what happened nor for the way it happened. This is war; and when you go to war against God – you shall surely die. The aftermath of war is never pretty, either. The holocaust of the battle of war will leave the souls and minds – and hearts – of many men blackened and scarred. The tender foliage of a civilization can be stripped away faster than you can say “carpet bombing.”

Jael did an awful thing; but woman has been made finer than man. I never know why women cry when they do. This is something that's supposed to be a fine point; but has seemingly disappeared from modern womanhood. Woman cry, naturally, at a funeral – but they also cry at a wedding – and I don't understand that. I think women know something spiritual men don't know. Well, this mother's heart has been laid bare in song today as she remembers her son Sisera, although an enemy slain in a most brutal way - he still had a mother who loved him....

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

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

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.

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.

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?

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

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?

~ Sisera's mother knew what had happened. She thought her son would certainly be coming home – but he WASN'T coming home this time. Even the heart of Deborah goes out to her. Deborah was a tender-hearted woman. So many mothers of the past have overcome the handicap of evil days. Augustine had a mother named Monica who prayed for him continuously. Augustine was a debauched college professor who finally came to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also have Susannah Wesley who had two boys she constantly prayed for: John and Charles. We're not talking about worshipping womanhood - not at all; but I am here to tell you that we are getting very far away from God's conception of womanhood and motherhood today. I honestly hope I have painted a picture of Deborah with her song you can finally see. I wish I could take this a little further, but we must end this report here....

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 ~

>>>