



JUDGES

our deepest need



“There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he does not mind who gets the credit.”

Plaque on Ronald Reagan's Desk

“Lord, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled
and the heavens dropped,
yes, the clouds dropped water.
The mountains quaked before the Lord,
even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.”

Judges 5:4-5

“Between her feet
 he sank, he fell, he lay still;
between her feet
 he sank, he fell;
where he sank,
 there he fell—dead.”

Judges 5:27

* Deborah is inviting everyone to **praise God** for his **deliverance** through **unlikely means** against **overwhelming odds.**

1. Deborah is inviting everyone to praise God ...

- She pulls in Barak. (1, 2, 12)

- She pulls in Barak.

“Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:

“That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the Lord!” (1, 2)

- She pulls in Barak.

“Awake, awake, Deborah!
Awake, awake, break out in a song!
Arise, Barak, lead away your captives,
O son of Abinoam.” (12)

- She pulls in Barak.
- She calls **kings** to “give ear” (3)

- She pulls in Barak.
- She calls **kings** to “give ear.”

“Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the Lord I will sing;
I will make melody to the Lord, the God of
Israel.” (3)

- She pulls in Barak.
- She calls kings to “give ear”
- She invites people who might **pass by**. (10-11)

- She pulls in Barak.
- She calls kings to “give ear”
- She invites people who might **pass by**.

“Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,
you who sit on rich carpets
and you who walk by the way.” (10)

“To the sound of musicians at the watering places, there they repeat the righteous triumphs of the Lord, the righteous triumphs of his villagers in Israel. ‘Then down to the gates marched the people of the Lord.’” (11)

1. Deborah is inviting everyone to praise God ...
2. ... for his deliverance through **unlikely means** ...

- the **leaders** who led

- the **leaders** who led
 - Deborah (2, 7)

“That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the Lord!

The villagers ceased in Israel;
they ceased to be until I arose;
I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.”

- the **leaders** who led
 - the commanders (9)

“My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the Lord.”

- the leaders who led
- the people who **offered themselves**

- the leaders who led
- the people who **offered themselves**

“That the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the Lord!” (2b)

“From Ephraim their root they marched down
into the valley,
following you, Benjamin, with your kinsmen;
from Machir marched down the commanders,
and from Zebulun those who bear the
lieutenant’s staff;
the princes of Issachar came with Deborah,
and Issachar faithful to Barak;
into the valley they rushed at his heels.” (14-15a)

“Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
of tent-dwelling women most blessed.
He asked for water and she gave him milk;
she brought him curds in a noble’s bowl.

“She sent her hand to the tent peg
and her right hand to the workmen’s mallet;
she struck Sisera;
she crushed his head;
she shattered and pierced his temple.” (24-27)

- the leaders who led
- the people who offered themselves
- the **atmospheric forces**

- the leaders who led
- the people who offered themselves
- the **atmospheric forces**

“Lord, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled
and the heavens dropped,
yes, the clouds dropped water.” (4)

- the leaders who led
- the people who offered themselves
- the **atmospheric forces**

“The mountains quaked before the Lord, even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.” (5)

“From heaven the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

“The torrent Kishon swept them away,
the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon.
March on, my soul, with might!” (20-21)

1. Deborah is inviting everyone to praise God ...
2. ... for his deliverance through unlikely means...
3. ... against overwhelming odds.

- the social **paralysis**

- the social **paralysis**

“In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were
abandoned,
and travelers kept to the byways.
The villagers ceased in Israel;
they ceased to be until I arose;” (6-7)

- the religious syncretism

- the religious syncretism

“When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.” (8a)

- the military negligence

- the military negligence

“Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?” (8b)

- the tribal **indifference**

- the tribal **indifference**

“Why did you sit still among the sheepfolds,
to hear the whistling for the flocks?
Among the clans of Reuben
there were great searchings of heart.
Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan;
and Dan, why did he stay with the ships?
Asher sat still at the coast of the sea,
staying by his landings.” (15b-17)

- the tribal **indifference**

“Curse Meroz, says the angel of the Lord,
curse its inhabitants thoroughly,
because they did not come to the help of
the Lord,
to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” (23)

- the enemy's **confidence**

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“Out of the window she peered,
the mother of Sisera wailed through the
lattice:

‘Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?’
Her wisest princesses answer,
indeed, she answers herself,

- the enemy's **confidence**

‘Have they not found and divided the spoil?

A womb or two for every man;
spoil of dyed materials for Sisera,
spoil of dyed materials embroidered,
two pieces of dyed work embroidered for
the neck as spoil?’” (28-30)

How should we think about the violence?

His wrath revealed against sin and all injustice
is necessary.

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“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

Romans 1:18

His wrath against criminals expressed through governing authorities is vital.

His wrath against criminals expressed through governing authorities is vital.

“... for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.”

Romans 13:4

His final judgment delivered through Jesus Christ is certain.

His final judgment delivered through Jesus Christ is certain.

“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Revelation 19:15-16

“My thesis that the practice of nonviolence requires a belief in divine vengeance will be unpopular with many Christians, especially theologians in the West. To the person who is inclined to dismiss it, I suggest imagining that you are delivering a lecture in a war zone ...

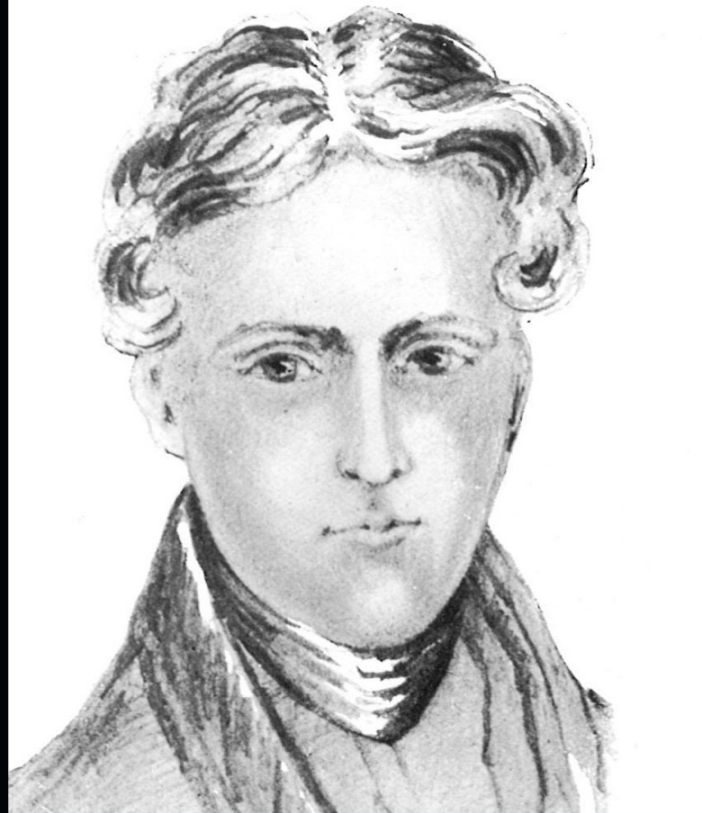
“Among your listeners are people whose cities and villages have been first plundered, then burned and leveled to the ground, whose daughters and sisters have been raped, whose fathers and brothers have had their throat slit.

“The topic of the lecture: A Christian attitude toward violence. The thesis: We should not retaliate since God is perfect, noncoercive love.

“Soon you would discover that it takes the quiet of a suburban home for the birth of the thesis that human nonviolence corresponds to God’s refusal to judge.

“In a scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, it will invariably die. And as one watches it die, one will do well to reflect about many other pleasant captivities of the liberal mind.”

Miraslov Volf



Robert Murray McCheyne





William C. Burns

“I do not care what instrument God uses here in St. Peters as long as souls are saved and God gets all the glory. William C. Burns is the Lord’s chosen instrument.”

Robert Murray McCheyne



Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln

“Shirt stained, coatsleeves
and trousers too short to fit
his long arms and legs.”

Doris Goodwin

“He remained in the courtroom the entire week, intently studying Stanton’s legal performance. He had never ‘seen anything so finished and elaborated, and so thoroughly prepared.’”

Doris Goodwin

“When convinced that the interests of the nation would be best served by bringing Stanton into his cabinet, he suppressed his personal resentment, as not many men would have done, and made the appointment.”

Stanton's partner

“Stanton not only revered Lincoln; he loved him.”

Doris Goodwin