

Judges, Sermon #14

Judges 4-5 – pair

Judges 4 is the story; Judges 5 is the song – story and song

What is a judge? Savior, deliverer of the people of Israel

We have had three surprising judges:

#1 – Othniel

#2 – Ehud

#3 – Shamgar

#4 is even more surprising – it is not a man, but a woman, Deborah – only
woman judge

I've entitled tonight's message "The Mother of Israel"

Let us pray

The Mother of Israel

We pick up her story – Judges 4:1

I. Repeat cycle – again – spiritual merry-go-round

Time doesn't matter – 80 years of rest – sin can make a comeback

When it does, more often than not – it is worse

Jesus taught this principle

Matthew 12:45, *“Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”*

II Peter 2:20, *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”*

THE EVIL IS REPEATED

God's people swallowed Satan's lie which is “Sin is Satisfying.”

- “Sin is liberating!” No, it's limiting!
- Sin loosens you up! In reality, it locks you up!
- Sin is interesting! It is also incarcerating!
- Sin leads to fulfillment! The truth is it leads to failure and frustration.

John 8:34, *“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth [continuous act] sin is the servant [slave] of sin.”*

Sin is a cruel master (Satan)

In this same passage, people had put their faith in Jesus: “Ye shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

With God, we are sons; with sin, we are slaves

Vs. 2a

The reason for their defeats and failures is found in Judges 5:8. They chose new gods!

(dependent on the person)

Instead of becoming atheists, they became polytheists

Everybody serves a god: self god, money god, sports god

True and living God

We should know what new gods bring – Judges 5

There are four illustrations of the miserable condition of the country.

5:6

First, “the highways were unoccupied, and the travelers walked through by-ways.”

There was not security for property or life in passing from place to place.

Traveling ceased; people only left their homes on occasions of the utmost urgency; and when obliged to take a journey, to lessen the risk of being plundered or murdered, they abandoned the high-roads, and used obscure and unfrequented routes.

How many of you women are afraid to go out at night for a walk in your neighborhood?

Secondly, “the villages ceased in Israel” – **5:7**

Villages are the blessings of a settled country.

The villages of America, dotted here and there on every landscape, and without the slightest protection, furnish the strongest possible evidence of the security and peace our nation enjoys.

Plevna, Partridge, Medora

In unsettled countries, the people dare not live unprotected, but are collected in walled towns.

In Israel it had not always been thus: but from the time the people began to choose new gods, public security began to diminish, and “the villages ceased.”

But not even in the walled towns were they secure; **thirdly**, there was “war in the gates.” **5:8a**

The enemy approached their fortified cities.

Hostile bands attacked the very gates where Israel’s magistrates sat in judgment.

Fourthly, Israel had no means of resistance left, having been completely disarmed – **5:8b**

Every weapon of defense which the Israelites had possessed had been taken from them to prevent their resistance in defense of their liberties; and Israel had been so stripped and impoverished that although money would doubtless have procured them a supply of arms from the smiths among their neighbors the Philistines, *“not a shield or a spear” was to be seen “among forty thousand in Israel.”*

God does not let us live comfortably in sin!

Paul warns us not to give ground or give place to the devil (Eph. 4:27).

We fight on the battle fields of lust, licentiousness, lewdness, loyalty, laziness, liberalism, love, and lifestyles constantly.

Judges 4 – vs. 2a

This is the only time during Judges that the enemy comes from within the land.

If the enemy had been driven out in the first place when they settled the land, this problem would have never surfaced.

Such is the price when we don't obey the Lord and follow His directions.

Little things are left alone – this leads to greater sin later

II. Cast of Characters – vs. 2b

Jabin – large army – 900 chariots

Captain named Sisera – military commander

Location – moved from southern – northern – involve six tribes

Hazor – north of Sea of Galilee

Joshua had defeated and conquered – Joshua 11:1-13

Deborah – a judge – faith and courage

Barak – a reluctant military general

Heber – Israeli – peace with Jabin

Heber's wife – Jael – handy with a hammer

God – in charge of wars and weather

In verse 3, after 20 long years, the people cried – where was deliverance going to come from?

III. Deborah

Miriam – Exodus 15:20 – prophecy through song

Huldah – II Kings 22:14

Anna – Luke 2:36 – spoke truth

Four daughters of Philip – Acts 21:9

“Deborah” means “bee” – industrious – sting like a bee

Woman – act of grace – act of humiliation

When women came into the position of authority, it was a sign of weakness – embarrassment

Isaiah 3:12 – children are – women rule

Out of order – sin brings to the (1) church, (2) home

According to verse 4, Deborah – both judge and prophetess – Samuel was the only other judge

But Deborah sees herself as Judges 5:7 – mother

She was not looking for the job at all

Gather in the wayward Jews

IV. Judges 4:5

I love palm trees – one of my good friends lives in Florida – palm trees

The very palm tree under which she held court became known as the Palm of Deborah

The Bible says in Psalm 92:12, “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree.”
That’s Deborah.

What is the palm tree like?

Palm trees are different from other trees – conifers, broadleaves

1. The palm tree can withstand abuse because its life is on the inside.

The palm tree grows from within

II Corinthians 4:16, *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”*

2. Palm trees can endure fierce storms.

They will bow down to the ground and spring back after the wind.

They can survive drought too because their roots are deep into the ground.

3. The older a palm tree grows, the sweeter its fruit becomes – dates.

A scarred trunk actually yields a sweeter fruit.

It may take as long as fifty years for a tree to come to full maturity.

Our trials and scars develop maturity in our life too.

James 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

II Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

4. The palm tree is evergreen and beautiful in stature.

It does not change color in the fall or become barren in winter – able to endure

Psalm 1:3, "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Palm trees – life – 100-200 years

City of Palms – Jericho

"Tamar" – Hebrew word for palm tree

This is the setting/introduction for the story

Next week, we will see what happens

Let us stand for closing invitation

Are we flourishing like a palm tree due to living righteously?

Do we have a new god in our life?

Roger, come and lead us – song