

## **"Song of Praise"** **Judges 5**

1. After the Israelite victory over the Canaanites in Judges 4, chapter 5 opens with a song of praise written by Deborah, the judge of Israel. Barak joins with her in singing this hymn of victory.

The victory hymn has 4 parts:

- (a) Praise for past faithfulness (1-12);
- (b) Praise for willing volunteers (13-18);
- (c) Praise for battle victory (19-23);
- (d) Praise for courageous leaders (24-31)

Hebrew praise typically always involved sound and it was always public. Read some examples of Hebrew praise in the Psalms here: Psalm 103:1-2, 95:1, and 100:1-2. What is the benefit of praise being loud and public?

What is something recent that you can praise God for? How can praise become more of your daily routine?

2. Judges 3:31 and Judges 5:6 are the only places in Scripture where we learn about this man Shamgar who struck down 600 Philistines with an oxgoad. "In the days of Shamgar" (5:6), what do we learn about Israelite life under Canaanite oppression?

How is Deborah described in verse 7?

Why did God keep allowing the Israelites to be ruled by foreign powers? (v.8)

3. In verses 13-18, blessing is pronounced on those tribes who responded to the muster for battle. We also see a series of taunts (implying curses) on those who failed to respond. What tribes are mentioned for failing to render aid (vv.15-17)? How is God calling you to better participate in His mission?
4. In verse 20, we see the powerful poetic language: "the stars fought from heaven". This isn't saying that the stars fought against Sisera but affirms that there was a divine intervention in the battle. God brought forth an unseasonable rain which turned the dry riverbed of the Kishon in to a raging "torrent". Why would these conditions not favor Sisera and his army (4:13)?
5. The vivid narration of Sisera's death describes in slow motion (vv. 25-27), and in a metaphorical sense, the fall of a leader. As leaders today, how can we guard from falling in the spiritual life?
6. If you were to write a song of praise about your life, what victories and displays of God's faithfulness would you include?