

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 “And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?”

Judges 2: 10-11 “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:”



Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 4-Adult Bible Study  
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## The Judges-part4

### Judges Chapters 4 & 5

Judges 4:1 “And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord...”

### Deborah and Barak

After Ehud and during Shamgar, the children of Israel did not repent and turn back fully to God as they did during the time of Othniel. Chapter 4 tells us Jabin king of Canaan was now oppressing northern Israel, primarily the tribes of Asher and Naphtali who settled in the Palestine region just west of the Sea of Galilee. Sisera was Captain of Jabin’s army.

God decided to bring deliverance primarily through a woman named **Deborah, a prophetess.**

- She was the first to become a judge before she fought any battles or delivered Israel from oppression.
- She lived near Bethel and people would come to her for council and judgment under a palm tree called Allonbachuth [Genesis 35:8](#) the burial place of another Deborah, nurse to Rebekah. She did not have an army to command nor a big cathedral, but people came to her. **All you need is the Power of God!**
- Deborah had God’s Word. She had God’s direction so she sought out Barak, a man who could wage War.

It is unique that Deborah was 60 mi. south of where Sisera’s army was based (location of the battle) and Barak was 40 to 50 mi. north of there. How did Deborah know that Barak could raise an army?

Did he have a reputation as a leader (if so Sisera would have probably known) or was Deborah relying on the Spirit of God?

**God does not send the qualified but qualifies the ones he sends.**

Deborah is not a warrior. However, she tells Barak the battle plan. Barak doesn’t appear to get excited about leading the charge. In fact, he says he won’t go unless she comes along! At this time I don’t think Barak even understands his leadership abilities or that God has led Deborah. He is most likely “hoping” she is right.

Deborah details out exactly as the battle should be fought and then, she even makes a prophesy that Barak would not get the credit for the defeat of the enemy, but rather a woman would. She was speaking of the death of Sisera by the hand of Jael. [Judges 4:17](#).

**God then takes a plan that looks doomed to failure and turns it into a complete victory.**

Sisera has a strong army with 900 armored chariots. He has his army base near the Kishon River. At the time of battle, God sends rain. [Judges 5:4](#)

Can you imagine Barak's army? *They probably were saying "it can't get any worse, now we have to fight in the mud", but God used the mud to get the chariots stuck and took the advantage away from Sisera.*

This Bible account of a Spirit filled person named Deborah and a somewhat willing, even though hesitant follower, named Barak shows how God can bless in any situation if we do what God wants.

The problem is that most have trouble knowing what God wants! How can we know when God is telling us something or when we are having a reaction to late night pizza and root beer?

***How to Discern God's Direction:***

In Chapter 4 of Charles Stanley's book [How to Listen to God](#), he lists 5 points that can help identify the voice of God.

- **Consistent with the Word:** God will never ask anything that is in conflict with His written Word. However, the responsibility is on each of us to read and learn God's Word so we can measure these feelings or urges against the Bible.
- **Conflict with Human Wisdom:** God did give us common sense but he expects us to put obedience to Him above what is logical. Jesus had his disciples doing things that were not logical. In fact, Jesus' selection of the 12 was not really logical.
- **Clash with Fleshly Nature:** God does not make it a priority to gratify our flesh. He will give us joy that the unsaved will never know, but he will not play to our carnal nature. *[We used to pick up kids in "the projects" and an old drunk named William would tell us that God told him to get drunk. Someone may have been talking to him, but it was NOT God.]*
- **Challenge to Faith:** If we see that it is something that we can easily do, then why would God need to talk to us through his Holy Spirit? The Bible tells us that we should do good and try to live like Jesus did. We will hear from the Holy Spirit when a specific job is required that we are not sure that we can do.
- **Courage:** I watched a generation that had men thinking that it was "Sissy" to be active in Church. They would say that they went to Church to make the "little lady" happy. Look at Joshua, Gideon, and the disciples: I wouldn't call them sissy!

***Trail Tips:***

*God does not send the qualified; He qualifies whom He sends.*



*There are NO doomed plans that come from God.*