

Judges 5

"The Song of Deborah"

Judges 5.1-5

-This is one of the earliest examples of poetry in the Old Testament

-**Who got the credit for the defeat of Sisera?** God

V 1-5 – A summary of God's help to the Israelites in times past

V 5 – From Sinai (the Ten Commandments)

Judges 5.6-11

V 6 – **Previous condition in Israel?** The roads were unsafe; travelers had to stay on the back roads

V 7 – Then Deborah arose as a judge

-**Description of her?** A "mother in Israel"

-She was prouder of being known as a "mother in Israel" than of being known as a judge over Israel

-It seems from this verse that her first responsibility was to her home

V 8 – The Israelites had started worshipping "new gods"

-**Result of that?** No shields or spears (even with 40,000 soldiers)

V 9 – Deborah felt sorry for the Israelites

V 10 – The people were urged to sing this song

V 11 – The people will remember these events and talk about them

Judges 5.12-18

V 12-16 – The territory that was controlled by Jabin: Ephraim, Benjamin, Zebulun, Issachar, Reuben

V 17 – **What was the response of the tribes of Dan and Asher?** They wouldn't send people to help fight

V 18 – Zebulun and Naphtali fought and gained a good reputation

Judges 5.19-23

V 19 – **Did the Israelites take "spoil"?** No – it all went to the Lord (to support the Levites and priests and the upkeep of the Tabernacle)

V 20 – Poetic language – "the stars fought against Sisera"

V 21 – **State of the river Kishon?** Flood stage

-Apparently, some of the soldiers of Sisera were swept away by the flood waters

V 22 – Horses were injured by the rough terrain

V 23 – A great passage

-Meroz was a town in Naphtali

-Did they do anything particularly evil? No – they just didn't help their fellow Israelites when they needed help

-We are to help our fellow Christians in distress

-To do nothing is a terrible sin

-Some congregations do not want to get involved with any kind of controversy; they never take a stand against the false doctrines of our day

-They are like the people of Meroz.

Judges 5.24-27

V 24 – In praise of Jael

V 25 – She gave Sisera milk (buttermilk)

V 26 – A real pleasant woman to have around!

V 27 – The death of Sisera

Judges 5.28-31

V 28-29 – A sad picture – **Who was waiting for Sisera to return?** His mother – she was worried about his delay

V 30 – Plenty of rewards for him when he gets back

V 31 – A good verse – all the enemies of God will perish as Sisera did

V 31c – **Length of peace this time?** 40 years

Revised 2012-09-15