



The Period Of The Judges

Judges Of Israel	Length Of Rule	Verses
1. Othniel	40 years	(Judges 3:9-11)
2. Ehud	80 years	(Judges 3:15-30)
3. Shamgar	Unknown	(Judges 3:31)(Judges 5:6)
4. Deborah/Barak	40 years	(Judges 4:4-5:31)
5. Gideon	40 years	(Judges 6:11-8:32)
6. Abimelech	3 years	(Judges 9:1-57)
7. Tola	23 years	(Judges 10:1-2)
8. Jair	22 years	(Judges 10:3-5)
9. Jephthah	6 years	(Judges 11:1-12:7)
10. Ibzan	7 years	(Judges 12:8-10)
11. Elon	10 years	(Judges 12:11-12)
12. Abdon	8 years	(Judges 12:13-15)
13. Samson	20 years	(Judges 13:1-16:31)
14. Eli	40 years	(1 Samuel 1:1-4:18)
15. Samuel	12 years (app)	(1 Samuel 2:18-4:10)

Deborah the Judge

- Jabin, King of Hazor oppressed the Israelites for 20 years.
- Led by the commander of his army Sisera in Harosheth-hagoyim.

Deborah the Judge

- Oppression – to squeeze or to press. Same word used in **Exodus 3:9** when the Israelites were in Egyptian captivity.
- Same word used to describe the oppression in each of the “cycles” of the Judges. **Judges 2:16-18; Psalms 106:40-43**
- This happened because of their initial disobedience to completely drive out the inhabitants of the land. **Joshua 17:16-18**

Deborah the Judge

- **Judges 1:19** - The Israelites had a problem with iron chariots. They didn't believe they could overcome them.
- Their attitude was “**we can't!**” With God's help, could they? Yes!
- Think of the spies in **Numbers 13:25-14:4** – “*we are not able ...*”
- Do we doubt? **Matthew 17:14-20; Ephesians 3:20-21?**

Deborah the Judge

- As a result of their lack of faith and obedience, and the 20 years of oppression ...
 - "... *The highways were deserted, and the travelers went by roundabout ways.*" (Judges 5:6)
 - "*Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel ...*" (Judges 5:7 NKJV)
 - "*New gods were chosen...then war was in the gates ... not a shield or a spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel ...*" (Judges 5:8)
- All hope seemed crushed. Think about **Acts 27:20** – "all hope... gradually abandoned."
- In such times, God needs someone to "stand in the gap" (**Ezekiel 22:30**) and keep their faith in God.

Deborah the Judge

- Deborah judged Israel at that time – the sons of Israel "came up to her for judgment" between Ramah and Bethel (**Judges 4:5**)
- Described herself as "a mother in Israel" (**Judges 5:7**)

Deborah the Judge

- Deborah said: "**The Lord, the God of Israel, has commanded ...**" go and take 10,000 men and march to Mount Tabor. (**Judges 4:6**)
- Deborah cited the words of God: "*I will give him (Sisera) into your hand*" (**Judges 4:7**)
- Deborah had faith in God and told Barak to assemble and lead the army.
- Barak, lacked the faith that God would go with them said, only, "*If you (Deborah) will go with me.*"

Deborah the Judge

- Isn't it enough if God says He will be with us?
- Think about Moses' attitude after the golden calf when God said He wouldn't go with them. **Exodus 33:14-16.**
- Think about Moses after the ten spies rejected the Lord. **Deuteronomy 1:26-33**
- Deborah understood what it meant for the Lord to be with them. **Judges 4:14**, "... *the Lord has gone out before you ...*"

The Battle Against Sisera

- **Judges 4:15**, "*And the Lord routed Sisera ...*"
- All of Sisera's army fell that day.
- Sisera fled on foot and went to Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite who killed him.
- "... *the Lord will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman.*" (**Judges 4:9**)

The Song of Deborah – Judges Chapter 5

- Begins with praise to God for all who: (Judges 5:2)
 - Led the battle (**Hebrews 13:7**)
 - and
 - Those who volunteered. (**Judges 5:9; Psalms 110:2-3; Psalms 54:6; 1 Chronicles 29:6-9, 17**)
- God only accepts those who volunteer. (**Matthew 11:28; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Revelation 22:17**)

The Song of Deborah – Judges Chapter 5

- Yet in the midst of all those who volunteered freely to fight, there were others who **stayed on the sidelines** – as it were.
- **Judges 5:15-17** – “... among the divisions of Reuben there were **great resolves of heart**. 16 **Why did you sit among the sheepfolds**, to hear the piping for the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben **there were great searchings of heart**. 17 **Gilead remained across the Jordan; and why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore, and remained by its landings.**”

The Song of Deborah – Judges Chapter 5

- The tribe of Reuben had “*great resolves of heart ...*” – they thought about going with their brethren and perhaps even planned on it but never acting upon their resolutions, “preferring their peaceful shepherd songs to the trumpet sound of war ... they were satisfied with having resolved, and did not carry their resolutions into action” (Jameson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

The Song of Deborah – Judges Chapter 5

- The tribe of Gilead – remained across the Jordan
- The tribe of Dan – stayed in their ships pursuing their fishing trade.
- The tribe of Asher – sat at the seashore by its landings.
- How often have I thought about doing what needs to be done and fighting the good fight of faith yet remained at home searching my heart and taking care of my business? **Luke 14:16-24**

A Call To Action

- To be doers and not hearers only. **James 1:21-25**
- Think of the parable of the prodigal son who first resolved to return to his father (**Luke 15:18**, “*I will arise and go to my father ...*”) and then did it (verse 20, “... *he arose and came to his father ...*”).
- Think about the contribution for the needy saints in Judea (**Acts 11:27-30**) and how they brethren in Antioch first “*determined to send ... for the relief*” (verse 29) and then followed through – “*And this they did ...*” (verse 30).

A Call To Action

- Contrast that with the son in **Matthew 21:29-31** who responded to the call to go work in the vineyard with the words “*I will Sir*” but never went.
- The Lord needs us to be active participants in the local church. Ephesians 4:16

A Call To Action

- We sing the song: “*I am resolved no longer to linger ...*” – are we lingering?
- A call to delay no longer. **Acts 22:16**
- A call to act before it’s too late. **Luke 14:24-25**
- Will you have more than just “*great resolves of heart*” and act in submission and humility to His will today?