

February 19, 2026

BOOK: Judges

<https://biblemapper.com/blog/index.php/2022/07/25/deborah-and-barak-defeat-sisera/>

Opening Questions:

- a. Who do you regard as a great female leader? Why?
- b. If you found yourself in a tough situation, who would you absolutely want to go with you?

Discussion Questions:

Chapter 3

1. Recap: The test of Israel. Does God test the nations today?
2. Are there any key insights as to why Shamgar was included as judge though mentioned briefly?
3. What is the difference between how God decides on Judges (thus far) verses how leaders were appointed during Moses' and Joshua's tenures? (*Ex. 3:1-12, 4:12-16, 18:13-26, Num. 27:15-23, 31:7-8, 34:9, Jos. 1-9, Deut. 1*)
4. Do you think the way leaders were chosen during this time period implies anything about Israel's relationship to God at this stage?
5. Does what you have seen so far in Judges suggest a breakdown in family discipleship, leadership accountability, or something else?
6. In what way has Israel made progress in this chapter? How about regression

Chapter 4

7. Why does Israel turn to God for help this time? (*Psalm 106:41-45, 1 Sam. 12:9-11*)

8. Is there any ironies in how the Israelites are opposed this time? (*Ex. 14:7, Jos. 11:1-11*)
9. Describe Deborah's role in Israel. What does the text say she was doing? Is there any task she was not doing?
10. Why do you think God chose her to lead the people at this time?
11. What are some challenges to Deborah's role in a modern church?
12. How do you think Barak felt being called to action by Deborah?
13. Who gave the command to attack Sisera and his army?
14. Why was it strategically significant that Barak positioned his forces on Mount Tabor? (verse 6)
15. How would you characterize Barak's dependence on Deborah – weak faith, wisdom, or humility? (verse 8) (*Hebrews 11:32–34, Ex. 4:10-14*)
16. Was Deborah's prophecy in verse 9, a punishment or a mere fact?
17. Why do you think the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali were on the front lines first? (verse 10)
18. Why was it strategically significant that Barak positioned his forces on Mount Tabor?
19. What is the relationship between the Kenites and Jabin?
20. Discuss the role of Jael in this passage. Was she doing the Lord's work or acting on her own?

21. What role might her background have played in her decision making?

Chapter 5

20. Are there any clues as to how life in Israel was like at this time from the song?

21. Do we have further insight into the specifics on how the Israelites defeated the Canaanites?
(*Judges 4:12-14*)

22. What individual tribes are mentioned in this passage (verses 14-18)? Discuss the reasons for their responses to the call to battle. How does the song address their actions?

23. Describe Sisera's mother's behavior in verses 28-30? How should believers wrestle with justice and human suffering? (*Matt. 5:43-48, Rom. 12:19-21*)

24. Should believers use the prayer in verse 31 as a guide or template for prayer? Why or why not?
(*Luke 6:27-36*)