

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03-Jun..... Joshua 1:1-18
- 2) 10-Jun..... Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
- 3) 17-Jun..... Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
- 4) 24-Jun..... Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
- 5) 01-Jul..... Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
- 6) 08-Jul..... Judges 1:1 – 3:6
- 7) 15-Jul..... **Judges 3:7 – 5:31**
- 8) 22-Jul..... Judges 6:1 – 8:21
- 9) 29-Jul..... Judges 8:22 – 12:15
- 10) 05-Aug..... Judges 13:1 – 16:31
- 11) 12-Aug..... Judges 17:1 – 21:25
- 12) 19-Aug..... Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
- 13) 26-Aug..... Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- Deborah and Barak restore some order and provide some relief to the oppressed Israelites, but not without controversy

Passage	Comments
Judges 3:1-31	<p>Judges to the Rescue: Othniel – Ehud – Shamgar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv7-9. Israel continued their sexual worship of Baals and Asheroth. God knew what He was going to do, but He waited till they “cried to the Lord” – their heart had to be ready & willing to follow God. God wants to lead willing sheep, not stubborn cows..... Hosea 4:16 • Note on Prayer. God wants to bless us, but there are times He waits till we cry out to Him. So, don't wait too long to seek God's help. Seek Him early and often • v10. The Spirit of the Lord enabled Othniel to judge - None of us can accomplish God's work without Him • v12. Sin Cycle Repeats Itself – Israel slipped back into debauchery, and God sent more oppression to entice Israel to seek Him againWhen will they learn?
Note on Sexual Addiction	<p>Recovery from sexual addiction on a national scale has never happened. God always had to wipe the slate clean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God used the global flood to wipe out early man for their sexual deviances • God wiped out Sodom & Gomorrah for their sex sins • God used Israel to wipe out the Canaanites for their unrepentant behavior into homosexuality, bestiality • Tribe of Benjamin nearly wiped out for their sex sins • God used heathen nations to nearly wipe out Israel for their sins of homosexuality, bestiality, child sacrifice • Historians believe the Roman empire collapsed from within because it gravitated to a promiscuous society (adultery, incest, pedophilia, homosexuality were OK)
4:1-24	<p>Deborah and Barak to the Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. We see Deborah was not only a judge of Israel, she was also a prophetess – and a wife (triple duty) • v5. Her office was under a palm tree, & Israel accepted her dual role (prophetess and judge) since they eagerly went to her for legal & spiritual rulings & insight – so her God-given abilities were evident to the people (she was not a self-proclaimed prophetess or judge) • vv6-7. Her prophetic role revealed God's willingness to defeat Sisera – if Barak was willing to follow directions • v8. But Barak had conditions – Deborah had to go with him or no deal. Was this a lack of faith on his part? If so, how did Barak get mentioned in the Hebrews Hall of Faith (Heb 11:32) and not Deborah?..... See 5:15
Other Women Prophets	<p>1. Miriam, sister of Moses (Ex 15:20); 2. Huldah during King Josiah's reign (2Kings 22:14); 3. Noadiah during Nehemiah's temple restoration (Neh 6:14); 4. Anna (Luke 2:36); 5-8. Philip's 4 daughters (Acts 21:9)</p>

Passage	Comments
Roles of Men and Women in Church and in Society	<p>Secular Leadership. Biblically, God has no problems with women being in government leadership, as shown here in Judges 4 with Deborah being commissioned by God and readily accepted by her compatriots.</p> <p>Note: Deborah did not perform the functions of a priest</p> <p>Spiritual Leadership. Biblically, God has no problems with women having various roles of leadership within the church – with few exceptions</p> <p>Gender Role Exceptions for Women. God has given specific roles for qualified men (not all men) to fill the office of Pastor/Elder and Deacons. This is not because women are not able to do a great job (or even a better job) in these roles, but simply because God stated He wants men in these roles (after all, if women were in these roles too, what would men be good for?)</p> <p>Gender Role Exceptions for Men. God has given women the responsibility to teach other women how they should love their husbands. Men might be able to convey general scriptural principles in a co-ed environment, but for a man to come along side in a 1-on-1 mentorship with a woman (other than his wife) would cause too many other problems to even count</p>
Authority of God's Word	<p>Churches still struggle with gender roles and what constitutes a marriage today because of a disregard for God's authoritative Word beginning with Genesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of England set to vote on women bishops • Presbyterian church rejects same-sex marriage • Episcopal church affirms transgender ordination
5:1-31	<p>Deborah Can Sing Too</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. Deborah credits herself for restoring order and peace in Israel – and rightly so • v15. Barak fought the fight that had to be fought – He trusted in God's command given through Deborah (4:6)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- To reverse a society from totally spiraling out of control and reaping God's full wrath takes special men and women totally dedicated to God, and willing to take the heat for doing what's right

NEXT WEEK: **Judges 6-8.** One of the most infamous judges, Gideon, was also one of the most questioning – “Where are God's miracles?”

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



“OK, one more time from the top now – here we go!”

The Song of Deborah (**Judges 5**). Deb graduated from the Moses School of Music with a major in Shock Rock Lyrics