

SERMON NOTES:

A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 4: Order In The Middle Of The Storm

BIG Idea: Even in seasons of chaos and compromise, God still raises faithful people who bring courage, clarity, and order back into the storm.

Application: God is not looking for perfect people in chaotic times — He is looking for willing people who will listen, obey, and step forward in faith.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

Judges 4:1-3 (ESV) *Deborah and Barak*

⁴And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. ²And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. ³Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

Chaos spreads quickly – but so does courageous obedience.

1. God often restores order through faithful people.

Judges 4:4-9 (ESV)

⁴Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. ⁷And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?’” ⁸Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Faith is not the absence of fear – it is movement despite fear. (Psalm 56:3)

2. God can bring order out of conditions that look uncontrollable.

Judges 4:12-16 (ESV)

¹²When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, ¹³Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. ¹⁴And Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into

your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. ¹⁵ And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot. ¹⁶ And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

Judges 5:4-5, 20-21 (ESV) *The Song of Deborah and Barak*

⁴ "Lord, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled
and the heavens dropped,
yes, the clouds dropped water.

⁵ The mountains quaked before the Lord,
even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.

²⁰ From heaven the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

²¹ The torrent Kishon swept them away,
the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon.
March on, my soul, with might!

Sometimes God will shake what we trust, so we learn to trust Him instead.

3. Worship reorders the heart after the battle.

Judges 5:1-3 (ESV) *The Song of Deborah and Barak*

¹ Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:

² "That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the Lord!

³ "Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the Lord I will sing;
I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.

Worship keeps victory from becoming pride and suffering from becoming despair.

Chaos may surround you, but it does not have to rule you.

God still speaks clearly in confusing times.

Faithfulness in the storm can restore order for others too.