

“DEBORAH: The Basics of Worship”

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Judges 5

By: Allen Coleman

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Deborah

(1) Naphtali

(i) Meaning = “my struggle”

[**JG. 5:18** - “Zebulun is a people who risked their lives to the death; Naphtali, too, on the heights of the field.”]

(2) Chapter 4, in large part is about her relation to Barak. Horizontal.

(3) Chapter 5, in large part is about her relation to God. Vertical.

(4) Most important things we learn about Deborah, I submit to you, are found in Chapter 5, not 4.

(5) But we like narrative in 4, have a hard time with the song and prose in chapter 5.

(6) Basic woman

(i) Not a complicated christianity

II. WHO WE WORSHIP

1. The Authority of God (v1-2a)

[**EX. 3:14** - “I AM”]

(1) How big is God to you.

(i) No beginning, no end

[**HAROLD BEST | Unceasing Worship** - “We were created **continuously outpouring**. Note that I did not say we were created to be continuous outpourers. Nor can I dare imply that we were created to worship. This would suggest that God is an incomplete person whose need for something outside himself (worship) completes his sense of himself, It might not even be safe to say that we were created for worship, because the inference can be drawn that worship is a capacity that can be separated out and eventually relegated to one of several categories of being...I believe it is strategically important, therefore, to say that we were created **continuously outpouring**—we were created in that condition, at that instant, Imago Dei.”]

(2) Oneism vs Twoism

(i) **The Truth:** Genesis shows immediate distinction between Creator and created.

- Light from darkness



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- Day from night
- Land from sea
- Man from beast
- Creatures from Creator

(ii) **The Lie:**

- Man from woman - Homosexuality, lesbianism, bi-sexuality
- Man from plant - extreme environmentalism, pantheism (God is one w/ universe), Panentheism (God inter-penetrates).
- Man from God - New Ageism, Scientology

[ROMANS 1:25] - ...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.]

(iii) Confusion comes when we don't know our place (image bearers) - too high, too low.

(iv) Humility - to know your place (between Creator and creation)

- We are separate and distinct from God, but made in His image and likeness to be separate and distinct from creation
- And to be separate and distinct from other people.

(v) Worship = We are mirrors (to show, to image, to reflect the character of God). We are “like God” in the sense that we bear His likeness. We are to image holiness, love, truth, compassion, patience...like God.

(vi) Idolatry = we are like God...but in the sense that we are self-directed and autonomous.

2. *The Sufficiency of God* (v10)

(1) Worship is not indifferent, but continuous outpouring for what it treasures (v12-23)

(2) If you are here on a Sunday with hands folded and in your pockets, then I submit to you...you do not treasure God the way you think you do.

(i) e.g. Allen falling asleep changed after I learned to value God more.



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[**2 TIM. 1:6**- For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame** the gift of God...]

- (3) Ask God to stir your affections.
 - (i) For His authority; his bigness, his distinctness, as God, "I AM".

III. WHY WE WORSHIP

1. *The Initiative of God* (v4-5)

- (1) The Basis for our worship is "what God has done". Not what "we have done".
 - (i) e.g. modern worship songs

[**PS. 98:1** - *Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*]

2. *The Intercession of God* (v24-31)

- (1) Victory & defeat

[**RO. 8:34** - *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is **interceding** for us.*]

- (2) God has interceded for you in Christ.
 - (i) Christian - still interceding.
 - (ii) Non-christian - offering intercession
- (3) Is the basis for your worship Jesus and Jesus alone? His saving initiative and his persistent intercession?
 - (i) Or are you tempted to make worship about you?
 - (ii) What you like, how you like?
 - (iii) If it's about God, you can worship anywhere (e.g. motorcycle trip).

IV. HOW WE WORSHIP

1. *Worship is not limited to places or people*

[**JN. 4:20-22** - *Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."*]

- (1) Not church, or at certain times or with certain people.



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(2) It's not about when or where...your ARE worshipping...just a matter of what.

2. *Worship is not limited to systems and sacrifices*

[**JN. 4:23-26** - *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”]

(1) Worship is not compelled, but offered (**v2b,v9, v11-12**)

[**PS. 33:3** - *Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*]

[**PS. 98:4** - *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*]

(2) Worship produces works (**v6-8**)

(i) We don't do good works by worshipping, rather, worship manifests itself in good works.

[**1 COR. 10:31** - *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*]

(3) Do you live a lifestyle of worship? Or is it limited to places and people or systems and sacrifices.

V. CONCLUSION

1. What are you worshipping?

[**JOHN CALVIN** - *From this we may gather that man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols. . . . So it goes. Man's mind, full as it is of pride and boldness, dares to imagine a god according to its own capacity; as it sluggishly plods, indeed is overwhelmed with the crassest ignorance, it conceives an unreality and an empty appearance as God. To these evils a new wickedness joins itself, that man tries to express in his work the sort of God he has inwardly conceived. Therefore the mind begets an idol; the hand gives its birth. . . . Daily experience teaches that flesh is always uneasy until it has obtained some figment like itself in which it may fondly find solace as in an image of God. In almost every age since the beginning of the world, men, in order that they might obey this blind desire, have set up symbols in which they believed God appeared before their bodily eyes.*]

2. Martin Luther notes if you don't break the first two commandments you won't break the rest - 1) there's one God 2) and you worship him alone.

(1) If that's true you won't worship sex, and commit adultery.

(2) If that's true you won't worship possessions and steal.



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- (3) If that's true you won't worship your image/identity and lie.
- (4) If that's true, you won't worship anger and control and murder.
3. Everyone's a worshipper.
4. The tricky thing about idolatry is that is it usually the pursuit of something that is otherwise good...Idolatry is enslavement to something we love...it's a good thing that is elevated to a god thing.
5. How do we figure out what our idols are?
6. Define for yourself your fall story? Or another way to say it...a "little hell".
7. For you, hell is:
 - (1) Being poor
 - (2) being ugly
 - (3) being fat
 - (4) being unloved
 - (5) being under-appreciated
8. The fear of your fall story or hell compels you to choose for your self a false savior god to save your from that hell.
9. For those whose hell is being unmarried, your savior will be a spouse
10. For those whose hell is loneliness, you will choose for yourself a friend or group of friends or a pet --You will do anything for them because they are your functioning saviors from your hell of loneliness.
11. And whatever you base your life on—you have to live up to that.
12. Or, you can choose Jesus.

