

Nailed It - Judges 4:1-24 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Wow! Judges has some crazy stories. Israel does evil, so God removes His protection and they are oppressed for 20 years by this ruthless king named Jabin and his crazy general, Sisera. And the text is careful to tell us that they have 900 iron chariots. Historically this is the very beginning of the iron age, and the armies who have figured out how to make chariots and other tools of iron have a significant advantage to those who do not. In this case, it is the equal to a foot army facing an enemy with an aircraft carrier with F-18's. The chariots will cut through foot soldiers like butter, so it seems as if Israel has no hope or remedy. But God fights for them, and the end of the story has a woman whose husband "just happened" to move away from his people to a vacant spot up north ends up killing this king with a tent peg. Is the message, "Go thou and do likewise?"

Why is this and other stories like it in the Bible, and what are we supposed to glean from it? Is the Bible really just an ancient book with insane and primitive stories giving some kind of moral tale? This is what people in our world believe. Yet this story has a much grander flow when read in the context of the entire story line of the Bible. And in this case we can find that this and all other stories point us to Jehovah God who has a great mission that He is accomplishing. This story points us to the beauty of the one grand story revealing this glorious mission and purpose, and the God who cannot be stopped. The mission of God has always been the unfolding of four great purposes:

- The display of God's glory
- The redemption of a people and therefore His working for their good
- The defeat of all enemies as God fills the earth with justice and righteousness
- The Gospel to all nations

As the story unfolds in the Old Testament the focus is on a nation who are descendants of one man, Abraham, and His family. In our story this week they are called the "Sons of Israel" (ESV translates "people of Israel") five times. This is not just a random statement of identity. The text is connecting their story to the book of Genesis and their patriarchs, specifically, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob is given the name "Israel" after his encounter with God. They are now the descendants of these men. God promised these patriarchs that their descendants would become a great nation that God would bless, defend, and keep. The Old Testament story tells us about the relationship between God and these people. So it seems as if their evil and idolatry is an unsurmountable obstacle to the promises of God, how can He be faithful to a people who keep ignoring Him and falling into the worst kinds of evil. In this case He raises a prophetess named Deborah who brings the Word of the LORD back to them, and He then fights what seems to be an unwinnable battle for them. Their enemies are defeated, and God uses the most unlikely of people to accomplish this, including a housewife named Jael and her tent-peg and mallet.

This story only makes sense though, when we realize that this nation is the people from whom our Messiah, Jesus would come. God's mission in the Old Testament is always to both prepare the world for the coming of Jesus and point to Him as the real and true hope for these and all other people. Now that Jesus has come the mission of God does not center on a nation and on wars against physical enemies. The mission now is a global mission, with the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the church being central.

There are no New Testament stories of people taking swords or tent-pegs to battle human enemies, rather we take the Word of God as a sword and proclaim Christ and Him crucified as the hope for all nations. At times it may seem that the enemies of the Gospel are winning, and that the Gospel cannot win. But we have to hold on this hope, that the mission of God cannot be thwarted, it cannot be stopped, it cannot fail. And this God still uses ordinary people who submit themselves to His will and purpose to accomplish crazy things for His glory, the formation and good of His people, to bring justice and righteousness in the world, and to take the Gospel to our neighbors and the nations.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Jeremiah 52	Hebrews 1	Hebrews 2	Hebrews 3	Hebrews 4	Hebrews 5	Hebrews 6

Reading from this past week's sermon: Judges 4:1-24

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Judges 5:1-31

Family Worship

Song - *All Things*

<https://youtu.be/KdzR2TnJeSw?si=d72BOe4H2H1vHzFY>

Gospel Project

Unit: The People Worshiped God

Story: The Prophet Zechariah

Big Picture Question: What is the Bible all about?

Answer: The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus.

Scripture: Nehemiah 7-13

New City Catechism

Question 6: How can we glorify God?

Answer: We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Verse: Deuteronomy 11:1

Judges 4:1-24

- What is God's mission as told in the great story of the Bible? How does this and other Old Testament stories connect to that mission?
- What are the obstacles in this story that seem to make God's mission impossible? How does God act in this story to accomplish His purposes for the Sons of Israel?
- What people does God use in the story? How can the ways these people are part of this victory teach us about the purposes of God for ordinary people like you and me?
- How is God accomplishing His mission in our time, and how can we be a part of this grand story?

Prayer

*Pray that God would show us how we can be a part of His mission to our neighbors and for the nations.

*Pray for our friends at Oasis International and our church's partnership with the Good Neighbor Initiative.