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## McInteer Sermon Outlines - Judges

Jim Bill McInteer

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# CHARIOTS OF IRON

Judges 1:19-20

I. Life has victories & defeats.

A. We call it weaknesses.

B. Or Jinx. → *Space craft to Sun - hand of wife*

C. Or Hurdles we can't cross - There comes to us  
Chariots of Iron. *11 Kids in 4 Room - boarders*

1. A land we can't fully possess when we are supposed to!

2. It comes at a time when we feel leaderless - Moses & Joshua are gone.

II. 1st let's see the story in Judges.

A. It's a catalogue of great victories.

1. Read the chapter. *who will lead?*

2. The Lord was surely with them. *Asked of God*

3. When similar facts come repetitively, you draw a proper deduction.

4. Some real "brotherly action" as Spurgeon called it - with Simeon - V. 3.

5. Lord's never short of instruments.

a.) Caleb. *555-7834 - who's calling*

b.) Othniel - new English has a peculiar translation on his bride's action. I think unwarranted.

c.) Was he just timid & she asked for land since she was marrying a poor man?

6. Do you suppose all of these events were preceded by prayer.

B. Sadly comes the chariots of iron part.

1. They distrusted & failed.

2. Not afraid of hills - only valley where the calvary could maneuver.

## 3. Chariots a terror.

a.) Poles between horses armed c lances & cut their way thru.

b.) Axles of wheels fit c great scythes.

4. Promises. *Josh 17:18 "Drive out the the have c. of."*

Ps. 46:9 "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth."  
Barak & Deborah smote Jabin & 900 chariots.

Deut. 20:1 "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemy, and he saith unto thee, I will fight against thee, because thou art a covenant people with the Lord God: therefore shalt thou be afraid of him, because thou art a covenant people with the Lord God."

5. Why fail? → *Coffee w/o cream - w/o milk*

(a) Too much confidence in self.

(b) Didn't believe all God said - were pickers of promise. (In Aesop's Fables stag looked in water saw antler & said in defiance - no dog will attack me - who's afraid! Yet heard hounds & ran!

(c) Didn't try - "did not", not "could not" (Boy was asked can you read GK., don't know, sir - Bring GK. book - No, I can't - Why didn't you say so - Never say I can't do a thing till I try.

(d) They were idle.

(e) They were afraid - heart in heels.

(f) They didn't call on God for added help - we never have a right to neglect His aid.

## 6. What are our chariots of iron?

a.) No money?

b.) No confederate? - *Couple & water bed -*

c.) Too big? *dripping apart.*

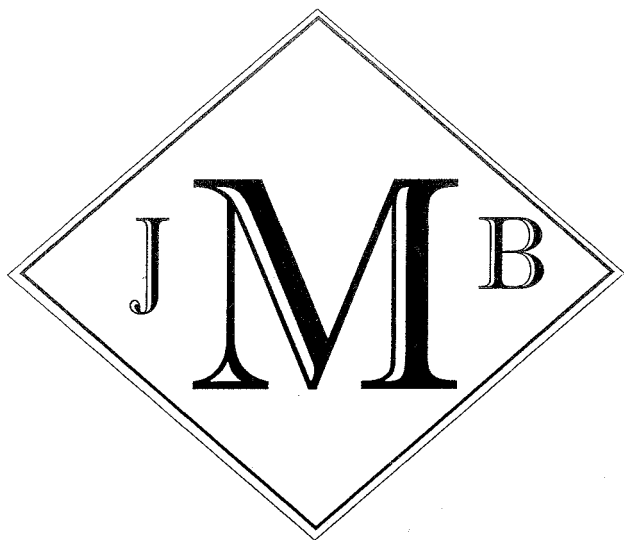
C. Glad others came & did win their victory.

1. Caleb wholly followed.

Josh. 14:14 "Hebron therefore became the inheritar

- 1. Laziness.
- 2. Defeated via assumption.
- 3. Blindness to opportunity.
- 4. Self conscious.
- 5. Not seeing big picture.
- 6. **Not** motivated more to act.
- 7. Indifference to degree.
- 8. Lack of faith.

*West End 100+ Class 10-23-77*  
*Broadway church, Lubbock, Men's Luncheon 10-31-77*



# A LADY IN THE MILITARY

Judges 4

- I. The question given: Should women be in the Front Line of War efforts?
- A. I'm no student of military personnel.
1. I recognize the distinctive abilities of women.
  2. I glory in all the things they can do so successfully.
  3. I lived in the time of the beginning of the WAC (Women's Air Corps).
  4. I worked with women in defense plants and knew the victory ~~grandeur~~. *GARDENS*
- B. Though I have a preference--that her gentle nature be not compromised, not her talents thwarted.
1. If she wants a military role she can have it.
  2. But to me--front line combat is not where she belongs.
  3. I've thought a lot about pioneer women; Jamestown women and marvel at their sacrifices.
  4. They may have been "front line" there. *Grasshopper in Kan*
  5. But as I read my Bible, there is a more refined place for them and they are pictured as powerful and necessary.
  6. Still I want no part of jeopardizing their greater achievements.

*Old  
Dinning  
Room  
lamp*

*But all  
can't do  
it*

*Greatest honor → Keeper of home*

- a) No mixed dorms.
- b) No dirty roles as prostitutes to obtain national secrets.

II. I do know of a woman who was the cause via a military encounter of saving Israel.

A. Her name is Deborah, a married woman.

- 1. A prophetess, place of honor.
- 2. A Judge, a leader rare.
- 3. A composer.
- 4. An instigator of a military campaign.

B. Let's see that story.

III. Deborah, Barak, Jael

A. Location

- 1. Lot given Naphtali one of the last.
- 2. Noblest ~~reason~~ *region*.
- 3. Mt. Tabor
- 4. Plain of Estralion.

B. The condition

- 1. Canaan was the oppressor called the 3rd oppression and in the land itself.
- 2. God had earlier told Israel to destroy them but didn't do it.
- 3. (v-8) weapons very scarce "no shield or spear" was seen among 40,000 in Israel.
- 4. This had continued for years.

*B. had no right to impose comm. and impose conditions God alone speaks!*

But it remained for a married woman, whose name appears & nothing more about her, to get it all started. *She was conscious of the great work of Jehovah -*

*great work*  
*Judges 2:17*

1. She knew of a man, Barak, maybe 70 miles from where she needed him.
2. She called for 10,000 troops (v-6) under command of Barak.

*Bad also  
can use  
weakness*

- a) Not always sitting under a palm tree.
- b) Put fire in Barak whose name means lightning--knew who was needed. *f could do the job*
- c) Come to Mt. Tabor--could not misunderstand the instructions.
- d) Said the Lord "commanded."
- e) Deploy Sisera, commander of Jabin, King of Canaan with his chariots and "multitude."
- f) River Kishon (place to fight) and that would look like a good place for chariots.
- g) If God said it's the place trust Him.
- h) Climb Tabor, ready to fight 20 years of depression, at a signal to descend and pour into 900 chariots--Israel had not a one. *Iron blades to cut into*

*How did she know the "charge" signal*

1 Cor. 1:27 "For God has chosen the foolish things" *in front??*

- i) Kenites told Sisera about Israel and he came flying.

*No authority to add 4/11/3*

3) Came a clinger (v-8) "if you will go" (v-9) "I will surely go--but no glory to you--it will be another woman."

(v-10) "Deborah went up with him"



4. She gave the advance command (v-14) "Up for this is the day"  
 a) How did she know when to go?  
 5. Comes the 12 mile clash!  
 6. At the time armies met God sent a torrent. "Stars in their course"

Judges 5:19-22 (READ)

7. Victory complete (4:16) not a man left standing.  
 8. Chariot useless in mire.  
 9. Was Deborah in the fight or only the planning & encouragement?  
 10. God had drawn the enemy into the quarmire. *Express THANKS*  
 11. Deborah took the lead to set the battle. *She loved to mi. Not serv.*

IV. However, according to Deborah's prophesy it was another woman who would outrank Barak. *Sisera*

- A. ~~Several~~ fled on foot to tent of Jael.  
 1. She went out to meet Sisera (v-18).  
 2. He asked for water, got milk (that will put you to sleep!)  
 B. He asked her to stand at the door and lie.  
 C. She got a tent peg, hammer, right hand with mallet & drove it through his temple, pinning him to the ground.  
 D. Called Barak and gave him dead Sisera.

Do not  
postpone  
duty

Do  
exactly  
what  
God  
says

1. Dr. Chalmers: -- "One cannot help a recoil from the deed of Jael, in which there were both treachery and cruelty, sorely aggravated to our natural feeling by the circumstances of her being a woman. Yet God does employ the instrumentality of what in itself is evil for the furtherance of His own purposes."
2. Read Judges 5:26-27.
3. Called "most blessed among women" Judges 5:24

E. Hebrews 11:32

Heritage 6/17/07

no doubt, would result in the annihilation of the Israelitish band. Nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him—all the forces which king Jabin could bring together—were summoned at Harosheth, and marched from thence “unto the river of Kishon,” \* where the chariots would be in the best possible position for action, on the flat alluvial plain.

Let us pause to contemplate the two armies, each now in position, and awaiting the battle. There, on the summit of Tabor, “a level, oval shaped area, about a mile in circuit,” † stand Barak’s ten thousand, waiting till the eagle-eyed prophetess, watching Sisera in the plain below, gives the signal of attack. Around them lay that wonderful panorama, which, once seen, can never be obliterated from the memory, and every point of which, notwithstanding their apparently hopeless inferiority, might serve to enkindle their faith, and to animate their hope. On the north, the brown peaks of their own Naphtali running in a serried ridge across the glowing sky, a corner of the sea of Galilee in its deep bed, and the glittering top of Hermon towering over it like a guardian angel. On the east, the long purple ridge of Gilead, rising like a colossal wall from the Jordan valley. On the south, the battle-field of the enemy, the plain sweeping round the base of the mount upon whose top the men

\* Jud. iv. 13.

† Porter’s “Giant Cities of Bashan,” p. 243.

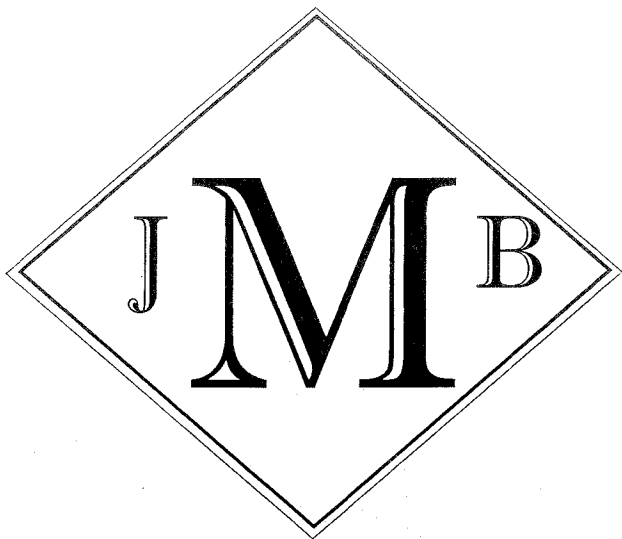
of Israel stood, and extending like a sea of verdure across to the hills of Samaria. On the west, the wooded heights of Galilee, extending to the dark ridge of Carmel and the distant Mediterranean. The steep sides of mount Tabor, probably less entangled at that time with brambles and brushwood than they are at the present day, afford a ready path for a rapid descent upon the enemy occupying the plain. But, once descended from the summit, how fearful the venture! How could a small company of wretchedly equipped footmen withstand, even for an instant, the onward rush of the enemy's swift chariots, supported by column after column of his well-armed and impetuous legions. To descend the mountain-side was like rushing into the jaws of destruction. With so great a disparity of force, nothing could prompt the movement, but either faith, or the wild and reckless courage of despair.

But despair finds no place in the heart of Barak so long as he has the Lord's prophetess at his side. A true man of faith, he is as humble and docile as he is swift and courageous. When commanded, he moves as the lightning, or as the "angels that excel in strength," those "ministers" of Jehovah, who "do His pleasure;"\* but until commanded, teachable and quiet, his "soul is even as a weaned child:"† a wonderful example, for the Church in all ages, of that phase or manifestation of faith which unites the most

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\* Ps. ciii. 20, 21.

† Ps. cxxxi. 2.



# ISRAEL'S IRON LADY

Judges 4:4

*Catholic Digest*

## I. Society records some famous women.

A. Margaret Thatcher - (did you know her husband was Dennis?)

B. Josephine - (guess Napoleon).

C. Eleanor, Jackie, Rosalyn, Nancy - you know the 1st ladies.

D. What was Lapidoth's wife's name?

Deborah. *Women-Representative #1*

1. If Israel had an Iron Lady she was it as she put 900 iron chariots out of commission.

2. Her name means "Bee" and she stung like one.

3. Do not confuse her with Deborah, mistress of Rebekkah that went with her to meet Isaac, died in Bethel - buried under an oak tree.

(Gen. 24:59; 35:8)

## II. This Deborah of Judges 4 & 5 quite a personality.

A. Her accomplishments.

1. A judge (Judges 4:5)

a) Only one female. - *400 yrs*

b) Sagacity her's.

c) Moral judgement inspired of God.

d) Settled disputes. - *wreck story #4*

e) Palm Tree between Bethel & Ramah.

2. Prophetess & Poet, Singer. *Blessed #5*

a) Character to match.

b) Saw Israel do evil in sight of the Lord (Judges 4:1)

Josh. 24:16-21 (Read)

Judges 3:5-7 (Read)

3. Lived 1200 BC.
4. Mother in Israel — *Princess's name #6*
  - a) Public minded too. *Sharon #9*
5. Husband named and nothing more. *Days like 7A*
6. Alert, courageous.
  - a) Saw need & acted. — *Colleg #7A*
  - b) "I Deborah arose"
  - c) "Up, for this is the day..is not Jehovah gone before thee" (Judges 4:14)
  - d) She knew history & cited it to Barak.
7. Military Strategist. — *Some clips #8,9*
  - a) Israel 20 years oppressed by Jabin, Canaanite, King of Hazor.
  - b) Could not free Esdraelon.
  - c) Called for Barak, son of Abinoam.
  - d) Muster 10,000 men at Tabor, wooden slopes.
    - (1) Some did not respond.

Judges 5:16 "Why abodest thou among the"

(2) Meroz

Judges 5:23 "Curse ye Meroz because they came  
(3) She chided men for cowardice.

e) Barak would not go unless Deborah went. *Women get choice*

Judges 4:8 "If thou wilt go with me" *Chap #10*

f) Sisera 900 chariots of iron from Western end of valley to Tabor he could march & be seen.  
Enough to make Israel melt.

g) Rain came & victory too.

Judges 5:20-21 (Read)

7. Israel had rest 40 years.

Judges 5:31 "And the land had rest 40"

- a) We marvel at 4 terms-she had 10!
- b) What does our life produce?

B. What lessons?

- 1. Awake to need, *confidant she could meet it.*
- 2. Arise to do our part. - *Brit-st. c. Men #11*
- 3. March on to Victory (Frances Velde "She Shall be Called Woman")
- 4. We salute a woman as rare as her Palm tree. - *Jewish Home by #12*
- 5. Let's lift for betterment the spirits of all.
- 6. She gave God the credit for all -- so must we.

West Nashville Heights VBS - 6/16/87

Ala.Christian Acad.-Montgomery, AL - 10/14/87

Beville Rd. church, Daytona, FL (Ladies C.)-1/17/89



#0  
X  
"People are composed of girls and boys and men and women. Boys are no good until they are grown up and married. My mother is a woman, which is a grown-up girl with children. My father is so nice I think he must have been a girl when he was a boy."

—Catholic Digest

Bishop FULTON J SHEEN:

X  
#2  
"Recently, on the subway, I got up and gave my seat to a lady who was holding on to a strap. She was rather surprised and said to me, 'Why did you do that?' Seeing that she was incapable of understanding a spiritual reason, I said to her, 'Madame, I tell you, ever since I was a little boy, I have had an infinite respect for a woman with a strap in her hand.'" 4-Q

BOB HOPE: "I collect awards — not by choice, but because people keep giving them to me. I have to rent a warehouse to house the many thousands of plaques, cups, scrolls, keys to cities and gifts I've received during my 55 years in show business." 5-Q

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NEXT PAGE

—Asuey Cooper

## Women #1

Despite the persistence of occupational segregation, women's representation in several areas is growing rapidly. The September issue of American Demographics reports that since 1970:

...women now make up over 20 percent of all lawyers—an increase of 400 percent;

...now comprise 18 percent of all doctors— up 80 percent; and

...women now constitute 28 percent of all computer scientists—a 100 percent increase.

Women workers became a majority of professional employees in the United States. While this reflects the resurgence of schoolteacher hirings, it also indicates the growing number of women entering traditionally male-dominated occupations.

The proportion of women managers was only 27 percent in 1972. Today it's 36 percent, an increase of one-third in less than one generation.

—Vital Speeches of the Day

## *U.S. Men and Women: Some Comparisons*

*Health:* Women have a marked advantage in longevity over men—77.1 versus 69.3 years in the United States. In any given year, twice as many men as women die of heart disease, 50 percent more die of cancer. However, the average American woman pays two more visits to the doctor than a man does every year, and as a group, females undergo 5 million more operations annually than do males. Throughout the industrial world, women evidence a far higher recorded incidence of depressive psychoses and psychoneuroses. But more alcoholics are men, and males have a 290 percent higher suicide rate than females.

*Education:* There are currently more women than men in college (5.9 versus 5.7 million), but somewhat more men than women in graduate or professional school (862,000 versus 709,000). While women stay numerically abreast of men through the master's degree level, males earn about 70 percent of all Ph.D.'s. Less than 13 percent of doctoral degrees awarded in 1980 in the fields of mathematics or the physical sciences were granted to women.

*Crime:* For all races, ages and income levels, men are far more likely to commit a criminal act than are women (except for prostitution); only one out of five serious crimes—murder, robbery, arson—is committed by women. In 1979, some 8 million arrests were made for

various offenses; women accounted for 1.3 million of them. But women's arrest rates are growing in virtually all nonviolent categories and, overall, are rising faster than men's. Some of women's gains reflect increased employment opportunities—for instance, the 24 percent increase in embezzlement by females in 1979.

*Employment:* Of 98.8 million working Americans, 38.9 million are women. Men and women are represented in every occupational category, but the percentages vary. Only 1 percent of the nation's 48,000 kindergarten teachers are men; only 0.01 percent of the 554,000 auto mechanics are women. Contrary to popular belief, the earnings gap between men and women is greatest in the traditionally male jobs such as law and medicine, and smallest in the traditionally female jobs such as teaching and nursing.

*Politics:* Men were more likely to go to the polls than women until the 1980 election, when women cast slightly more than their share of the 86.5 million votes for President. On balance, women lean more toward the Democratic Party than do men and are more likely to consider themselves liberals. The margin, however, is slight. Whether a political candidate is a woman does not seem to affect the way men or women cast their ballots. This was not always so. Through the 1950s and '60s, women tended, disproportionately, to shun candidates of their own sex, for reasons that remain unclear.

Women

#4

## I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

Two busy mothers who were driving their children to school collided one morning. The women got out and inspected the damage but decided they didn't really have time to have a wreck right then. They agreed to meet later.

That afternoon each woman drove to the scene of the morning accident, carefully maneuvered her automobile into the exact position of the accident, and then they called the police.—*Capper's Wkly*, 12-15-70

#5 Blessed is the woman who has a smile on her voice, a sparkle in her eyes, a song on her lips, a spring in her step, a warmth in her touch, a depth to her beauty, a purpose for her life, a joy in her faith, a hope in her breast, and a love in her heart.

#6 PRINCESS GRACE OF MONACO: "Women's natural role is to be a pillar of the family. It's their physiological job. They should make themselves interesting for their families. Women only work to avoid their responsibilities. The emancipation of women has made them lose their mystery — they're sore losers. They cry."

10-Q

(1)

Title - It's About Time.  
Author - Jeanne E. Sherrow  
Page - 52 & 53.

Gary Clarke, who writes about television for Time Magazine, had this to say about the women we watch on television:

Now, in the '80s, a new woman seems to have charged onto the tube. She's bold and brash, and...in the war between the sexes, she's practically Superwoman. No man gets the better of her...The new woman as heroine is not only more biting and

(2)

sarcastic than other women in her show, she's stronger than any of the men around her....

This series, like so many I saw, implied--under its breath--that women can be equal only by downgrading men....No matter what the situation, the secret of the popularity of...these very popular shows is that the male archetypes are...merely ignorant... it's kind of sad that as the women on TV get smarter, the men get dumber and dumber.

...mostly missing from the TV screen is the

(3)

married woman...None of them struck me as being even remotely as persuasive as the divorced and single woman I constantly saw on TV. Perhaps the message that the networks are trying to tell us is that not only is marriage no longer a joke, it is no longer even a sitcom.

Even as the new woman has "charged onto the tube," so has she charged into the everyday of life. There is so little any more of the genteel, truly feminine woman who knows, because of the sheer wonder of being a

woman, that she is equal, okay, even special. It is heartbreaking to me to see many of the young women with whom I work bulldozing their way into a situation, putting down the men in their lives, and arguing for their "rights." They vow not marry, have children, and tie themselves down, ignoring the joy and fulfillment of family life and seeing only the loss of individual freedoms. And all the while, the young men not only do not seem to mind all that, but see themselves as contemporary, liberal, "liberated"--as they applaud the new woman.

If you studied under women professors in college, you're probably one of the go-getters today. A study done by Elizabeth Tidball found that women who graduated from a school with a large female faculty were more likely to become high achievers.

Women faculty are more prevalent at women's colleges and smaller institutions.

— *New Woman*

"YOUR HUSBAND says he leads a dog's life," said one woman. *MHA*  
"Yes, it's very similar," answered the other. "He comes in with muddy feet, makes himself comfortable by the fire and waits to be fed."

Questions & Answers, Sermon Outlines &  
Bible Study Notes.

Gospel Advocate Co. Pages 150 & 151.

# 8

✓ (1) Is it right for a wife and mother to read good literature and even take a correspondence course in order to improve herself? (2) Is it right for a wife and mother to try to look her best by using all of the cosmetics that are generally used?

1. Yes. It is not only right for her to do this, but it is her duty as a wife and mother to make such improvement intellectually as she may be able. Every wife and mother owes it to her husband and to her children to become as useful and helpful to them as is possible. She can do this by reading good literature and taking correspondence courses in such branches of learning as will be most helpful to her. I commend most earnestly the desire on the part of this sister to make such improvement. Children like to think of their mothers as being intelligent, and there are not many mothers but that need courses of instruction in many of the affairs which pertain to the training of children.

2. I am not so familiar with all of the articles used by women to improve their looks. I think it is the duty of every wife and mother to cultivate habits of cleanliness and neatness, both in person and in homekeeping. She needs to set the example before her children of cleanliness and to make a good appearance before the public. However, she should be free from the worldly vanity and cultivate modesty and sobriety. "Whose adorning let

Women

A historian announced that women used cosmetics in the Middle Ages. Women still use cosmetics in the middle ages.

Vision: What we claim to have whenever we've guessed correctly.

er 15, 1985

*Quote*

NAME FOR IT #10

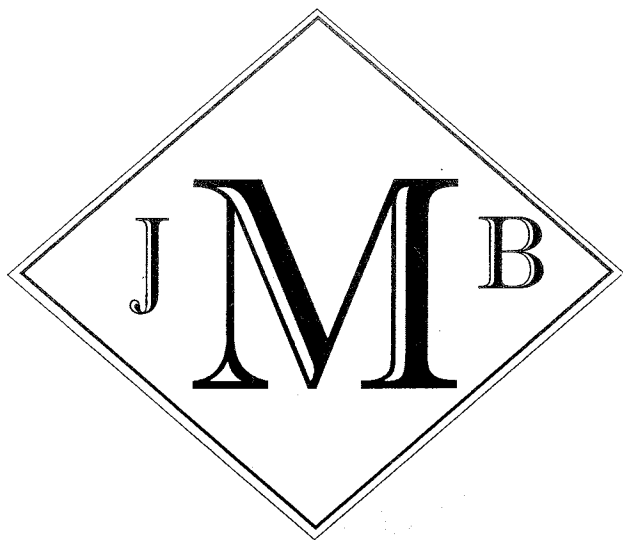
"Chairperson" solves the sexist problem,

It probably will do,

Though such a person ought to have

Four legs instead of two. *Woman*





# THE SONG OF VICTORY

Judges 5:2-3

- I. Sometimes it's easier to remember a thing in poetry than it is in prose.
    - A. America America
    - B. Only a little boy David
    - C. Amazing Grace
  - II. Deborah has a song
    - A. We want to thrill to the victory.
    - B. We want to see what made it happen that we may duplicate the procedure.
    - C. We'll make no effort to do it in detail but will seek to hit the high spots - 1200 B.D.
    - D. We'll also rightfully praise a woman!
  - III. The Victory Song Has:
    - A. The praise worthy acknowledgement of God (V 1-5)
      1. Praise & calling God's name should be a natural thing with us.
        - a) Tell what he's done & pass it one generation to another.
        - b) If Daniel Boone killed a b'ar, surely we need to tell the story of what God has done - especially to our children.
- Ps. 145:4 "One generation shall praise thy works to"
- c) Don't be timid with your praise, she said "Hear O Ye King".
  - d) Praise God - not counterfeit deities.
  - e) All good things come from Him.

f) 14X in this song he is named.

## 2. Lessons to learn

- a) No time should lag between receiving a blessing & thanking Him.
- b) He used men & they did their duty.
- c) Music of people telegraphs their culture.
- d) Note the width of his love - his people & their friends.

3. Read V. 3 & 4 as it tells the history - he can put nature into convulsions & melt mts.

## B. Things Can Be Pretty Sad but a great Leader can make a change (V 6-11)

1. This was the conditions under the tyranny of Jabin.

### a) Highways unoccupied

- (1) No soldiers to protect so trade ceased.
- (2) Lit. hiways kept holiday - grass grew on them.

### b) Travellers walked by-ways.

- (1) Lit. walkers of paths.
- (2) All took back paths.

### c) Villages uninhabited

- (1) No tillage
- (2) No justice administered & no one to work ground.

### d) Chose new gods

- (1) Brought it on themselves by this deed.
- (2) Idolatry provoked God.
- (3) Satan served.

e) War in the gates - no peace for the people.

f) Not a shield or spear in 40,000.

(1) No arms to help themselves.

(2) General disarmament.

(3) 20 years of oppression - no spears.

g) Even terrified the drawers of water (V-11)

2. There arose a leader - I arose a mother in Israel.

a) Shamgar & Jael could not deliver - it took Deborah.

b) God uses men.

c) May be tough but those of vision & faith can do it.

3. Respect for governors.

a) 2X offer willingly (V 9 & 2)

b) There were men who'd run any risk for Israel.

c) White asses

(1) Bought skinned ones.

(2) Tawny asses astride bright saddle blankets.

d) My heart is toward them - thank them immediately.

C. Sing: Lead Captivity Captive (Col. 2:15) as she does a little inventory.

1. 1st be it known they have good reason for praise - not a hollow thing.

2. She lists those that were with them: Muster of faithful tribes.

- a) Ephraim
    - (1) Big
    - (2) V-13 God descended to me among the heroes lit.
  - b) Benjamin
    - (1) Small but mighty
    - (2) Little one led the big one
  - c) Machir - (Manasseh)
    - (1) Folks fought hardest that joined the borders of enemy - that's natural - most to lose.
    - (2) Remnant stronger than the enemy.
  - d) Judah & Simeon not mentioned.
  - e) Issachar (with her) Zebulum too Naphtali
3. Those that weren't.
- a) Reuben "great thoughts of heart" - "abode among sheepfolds" - "division" - "great searching of heart".
    - (1) Division blocked her.
    - (2) Too busy with the world - sheep folds
    - (3) Folks of narrow interests.
    - (4) Reuben vacillated - one day go - next day stay.
    - (5) Insensitive - hears call of sheep but not of men.
  - b) Gilead - beyond Jordan.
  - c) Dan remained in ships.
  - d) Asher continued on the sea shore.
    - (1) Sat there lit.

(2) Breaches - fissures, cliffs

(3) Ever repairing

e) Words: stayed; abide; sat still; settling down.

f) Even the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

(1) Weather with us - providentially

(2) River washed away chariots

g) God notes who is for or against

h) Meroz neutral - cursed (V-23)

#### D. Song of Sisera's Death

1. Skip execution details

2. Tell of mother

a) Look & cried thru lattice

b) So sure of victory

c) Cry = wail of impatience

d) Wise can easily be mistaken. Can deceive ourselves.

e) Delay due to:

(1) Wealth of spoil

(2) Taking of maidens

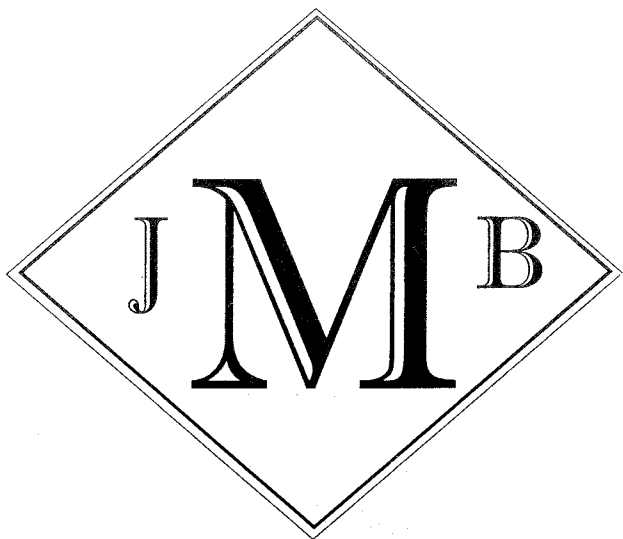
f) No one answered her question.

3. Last effort of Canaanites to retake land.

4. Malediction - all enemies have same fate - malison on enemies.

5. Benediction - friends of Lord be radiant as sun.

6. Land had rest 40 years.



# CURSE OF MEROZ

Judges 5:23

I. No one can understand this curse unless he knows the background that produced it.

A. May I tell you this story, *then the curse (No)*

B. It's in Judges 4. *then application*

II. Israel was in distress. *(No of time)*

A. Like of old they apostozed. *could be "name" of all things, i.e. Pharaoh.*

Ps. 78:57 "Turned back and dealt unf. like

1. Because of it oppression overtook them.

B. Their captor was Jabin, King of Canaan and Sisera was captain of his host.

1. Often the military name dominated.

2. Sisera's town, Harosheth, meant wood cutting! Perhaps Israelites reduced to this. *but a good - like stone house*

3. He had 900 chariots--a most feared thing by Israelites.

4. 20 years oppressed "mightily", means sharply by force.

5. His name meant battle array or see a horse. (He saw stars before it was over)

C. Their Deliverer was Deborah.

1. Her name meant Bee.

a. Sting to her foes and honey for a friend.

b. On Sabin Day we've got a lady who was quite a honey!

2. She was a prophetess.

a. Only judge so called.

3. She was a wife. *→ Gaduses strange*

a. Lapidoth means flames, lamp, splendor



Used only here.

②

b. Does this mean she had shining gifts and firey spirit?

4. She was a judge.

a. Only female judge or ruler of any kind in Israel except Athaliah.

5. She was confident and deliberate.

a. Took her station under a solitary palm and gave judgement.

b. Mt. Ephaim was one secure spot in Palestine.

c. Children of Israel "came up"--a technical term to go before a superior.

d. She could be reached with some freedom.

D. She devised a plan.

1. She called for Barak and his name means lightening.

a. God used a blitz long before Hitler.

b. Barak was famous. (Kadesh-prefix of his city always means holy.)

2. Told him to go to Mt. Tabor.

a. Draw troops=call together, perhaps in small contingents and avoid suspicion.

b. Broad, flat top of Tabor would serve as (1) watch post and (2) stronghold. It was 1900' high and covered with oaks.

c. He was to get 10,000 men from northernmost tribes. They'd feel revenge most if they lost. *She inspires & devises, b.*

d. Go to river Kishon and God would deliver Sisera. *Sites - God uses all*

3. Barak said yes if you'll go. (3)

a. Needed inspiration of her presence.

b. Ok but God will deliver Sisera into woman's hands not yours. *Water: God controls both sides - enemy & friend!*

(1) This might humiliate all.

E. Sisera discovers plan via Heber, the Kenite, Moses' brother-in-law. (R. V.)

1. Saw it would take all he had to dislodge Barak. *The Spirit is greater than the*

a. Shades of Houk and the Yankees. *use up*

F. Battle begins at "oak of the wanderer" -- God does many things at trees. *summit*

1. Deb. said "up for this is the day". *mountain*

a. Not just luck but providence.

2. Without benefit of calvary or chariots Barak hurled self down mt., leaving strong posts and became aggressor in what he feared most -- chariots. Sure had faith! Heb. 11:32 mentions him.

a. Might have marched 13 miles down mt. side. *use your best means "But what does require my head?" - Not Taanach*

Ps. 20:7 "Some trust in chariots and some

3. Lord discomforted. 5:20 "the stars in courses fought against Sisera."

a. Did river Kishon which means torrent bed flood as says Josephus? *See 5:21-22*

b. Terrible slaughter -- not a man left.

c. Sisera left chariot -- hard for general to hid his. *John 4:4 "Greater is he that is in us"*

(1) He went different way from his army.

d. Lost at Taanach by waters of Megiddo.

G. Sisera's death.

1. Fled to Jael's tent, tribe of itinerant metal smiths.
  - a. Her name meant gazella--pretty good for a nomad.
  - b. Women's tent in Eastern culture was inviolate.
  - c. She invited him in otherwise no entry to harem.
2. She covered him with tent rug of goat hair
3. If food served its a sign of good will so he asks for water and she gave him a bottle of milk--a skin of milk. (RSV)
  - a. Sisera felt secure after this test.
4. He told her to stand in door and lie for him.
  - a. Can we lie for self preservation?
  - b. 1000 B.C. Both heathen or gypsie.
5. She kills him.
  - a. Crept softly to him.
  - b. Took tent nail or peg and a ponderous mallet.
  - c. Smote--more than once is word.
    - (1) Short spasm of agony.  
5:26-27 (Deb. victory poem read it at hand)
  - d. Drove it through head and pined him to ground.
    - v-21 "so he died." I'd think so!
  - e. She violated every eastern rule.
  - f. Would you have felt differently if soldier took his life?

(1) Is a difference, huh?

III. Deborah sang a song.

A. In it she put curse of Meroz.

5:23 "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel.

1. Hard to locate but evidently right in the middle of the battle and wouldn't strike a blow to help.
2. Ancients regarded this with special indignation.

B. What about this curse?

1. Was it a splenetic utterance of an angry woman?

2. Of what were they guilty?

a. Omission of plain and positive duty.

(Didn't join enemy and didn't help friends.) Cursed for inaction.

b. Lukewarm and careless.

(1) Up this is the day.

(2) In middle of it.

c. Let opportunity pass.

3. What could cause this?

a. Moral cowardice.

b. False humility.

c. Laziness.

d. Pre-occupation.

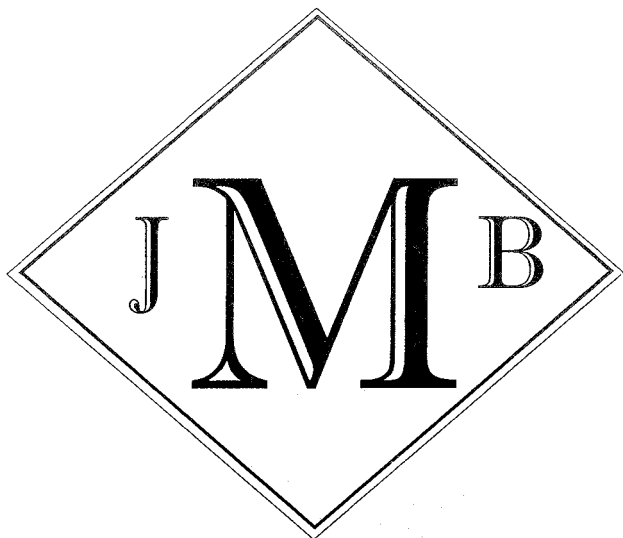
4. With our gospel meeting will you turn down plain duty or will you work?

West Side 10/6/63 Central MS Minville 7/14/64

Hiliana College - 10/28/63

Floyd Ave - Memphis 11/13/67

St. Elmo - Chattanooga 1/31/64



# SERVE BUTTER IN A LORDLY DISH

Judges 5:25

I. Tell the story of Deborah - Judges 4.

A. One woman arose a nation - great prophetess.

B. One woman c/a tent peg dispatches a King - Jael & Sisera.

II. Israel long over run.

A. Barak urged to battle.

B. Deborah must agree to go.

C. Hand of a woman get the glory.

D. Story of the battle.

1. 10,000.

2. 900 chariots.

3. Sisera dismounts.

III. Jael calls for Sisera.

A. Invitation extended & accepted.

B. Hospitality shown in milk & water - thus a pledge.  
Butter in lordly dish.

C. Sentry posted at door.

D. Sisera dies.

E. Gloats over his mother's anxiety.

IV. What lessons are we to learn as men like the companionship of women?

A. You can bring butter in a Lordly dish.

1. Spell of flattery get men to do wrong.

2. Fair speech causes yielding.

3. Use it in a good way.

B. Was the milk fermented?

1. If so, you can keep intoxicants away.

2. Think of the spread of liquor damage.

4  
C. We can each go to sleep at time of peril.

1. Our conscience.

(a) Strongly want to do something - finally get consent of conscience.

(b) We tease & coax into subjection.

(c) Star of conscience obscured in mist & fog of desire.

2. Our ambition - what's our aim, purpose.

(a) What must I accomplish?

(b) What is my desire?

3. Our honor sleep.

(a) Roll of French regiment called: Ans.: "Dead on the field of honor."

(b) Uphold a conviction.

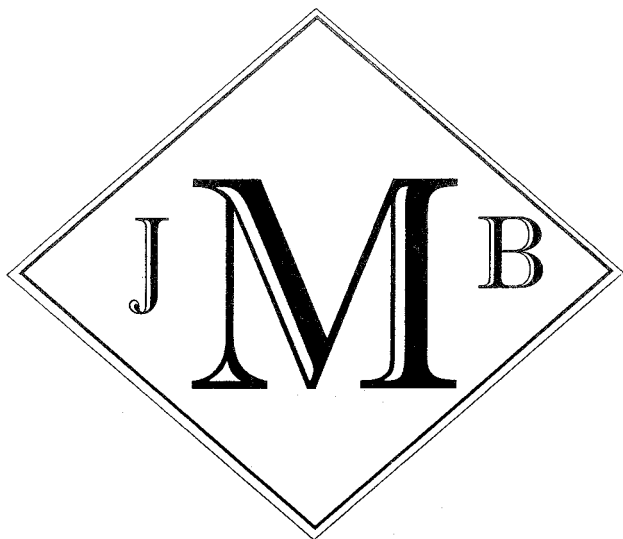
(c) Killed as our mad desire for improper overpowers us.

4. Our religion sleeps.

(a) Pray - read - worship - serve.

(b) Development - evangelize.

*West End Ladies Bible Classes 10-7-75.*





# THE CONQUERING MINORITY

Heb. 11:32; Judges 6-8

I. Perhaps no O.T. character shows the power of faith in the minority more splendidly than does Gideon.

A. It is his judgeship we want to tell you.

B. It's beautifully told in Judges 6-8 and handsomely reviewed by Wiseman.

II. We meet Gidon and the Midianite spoilers.

A. Children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord--and He punished them.

1. 7 years of oppression.

2. Dens, caves, strongholds occupied not the fertile plain Esdraelon.

3. Summer after summer Midianites came and ate the crops. Same folk to whom Joseph was sold.

Nu. 22:4 "Lick up all...as ox licks grass of field"

Judges 6:2 "Hand of Midian prevailed"

4. Like grasshoppers without number.

5. Greatly impoverished.

6. Israel cried unto the Lord.

7. Bow down to their gods you bow down to their tyranny.

8. Altar of Baal with Gideon's dad.

9. Idols on every high hill and under every green tree (Isa. 57:5).

B. "Cried unto the Lord"--(who else?)

1. God sent a prophet.

2. Delivered you from Egypt.

3. Will deliver you from Midian.
4. "But ye have not obeyed my voice"  
(Judges 6:10).
5. Before deliverance the unnamed prophet--your disobedience has caused this.

### C. The Winepress of Ophrah.

1. Threshed wheat by winepress, ,  
hiding by handfuls.
2. Hide from Midian (Judges 6:11).
3. Angel, oak Ophrah, found Gideon.

v.12 "The Lord is with thee--mighty man of valor"

- a) What victory has this farmer  
ever won?
- b) Here I hide!

4. Gideon's concern for his country.

v.13 Why the befallen? Where are miracles?

5. Rather despondent.
6. Knew ancient history--not  
disbelieving, but weeping over today.
7. Have I not sent thee? Save Israel.
8. Wherewith? Pour--least of house.
9. "Lord looked on him" Go, I send!
10. (Man with staff in hand can still  
commission you.)
11. I will be with thee, I send thee  
"Smite Midian as one man"
12. Show me a sign.
  - a) Present before thee.
  - b) Kid & unleaven cakes.
  - c) Flesh in basket, broth in pot.
  - d) Present them.
  - e) Lay them on the rock.

- f) Staff touches gift, fire out of rock, consumed cakes, angel departed.
13. Peace, die? Altar built.  
Jehovah-Shalom
  14. Same night--destroy altar, grove of Dad.
  15. 1st effort of reformation--get home right.
  16. Gideon must die.
  17. Let Baal plead for himself.
  18. Built family altar.
- D. Summoning the Hosts.
1. Midianites & Amalekites Valley of Jezreel.
  2. Spirit of Lord came upon Gideon.
  3. Blew trumpet--this farm boy is doing splendidly.
    - a) Great memories with trumpet.
      - (1) Fathers in wilderness.
      - (2) New year celebration.
      - (3) Law at Sinai.
      - (4) No longer is trumpet silent in Israel.
    - b) Israel called to battle.
    - c) Can the farmer captain 30,000?
  4. Tents of Midian covered the valley.
  5. Gideon again asks for sign.
    - a) Wet fleece vs dry ground.
    - b) Once more--opposite fleece dry vs wet ground.
- E. Day of Midian
1. 30,000 is too many.
    - a) Credit themselves with victory.

- b) Rob God of his praise.
- c) Some cowards anyhow.
- 2. Let fearful depart--22,000 did.
- 3. 10,000 is too many.
  - a) Bring to the water--I'll try them
  - b) Knees vs lap like dog.
  - c) 300 stood--rest on knees.
  - d) Sent to tents--use later.
- 4. 300 vs innumerable host, camels covered the plain.
- 5. Why the division.
  - a) Knee folk not cautious.
  - b) Knee folk self-indulgent to thirst.
  - c) Knee folk laid weapon aside.
  - d) Knee folk diverted from work ahead.
- 6. Yet each to his place--some up front, some rear--service diversified.
- 7. Reassuring dream revealed.
  - a) Barley bread--humble food for feast, thus Gideon humble origin.
  - b) Heard dream--he worshipped.
  - c) Lord hath delivered Midian.
- 8. 300 advance.
  - a) 3 companies
  - b) Right hand trumpet
  - c) Left hand pitcher, torch
  - d) Each man in his place
  - e) Stillness of night round about evening. Trumpet sound, pitcher broke, for Jehovah & Gideon shout.
  - f) 120,000 fell.

*Middle*  
*120,000*

## F. Pursuit of Next Day

1. Blocked Jordan passage.
2. Took Oreb (Raven) Zeeb (the wolf)
3. Brought heads to Gideon.
4. Succoth refused to help unless had Zebah and Zalmunna.
5. Men at Penuel the same.
6. Often God's messengers encounter unbelievers.
7. Gideon carried on anyhow, but promised punishment.
8. Kings of Midian killed Gideon's brothers.

## G. Lessons Learned

1. Forces of evil inherently weak though they may appear to have colossal strength.
2. Always follow the right.
3. Avoid compromise and falsehood.
4. Faith is marvelously proper. 100 men put to fight a multitude.
5. Man must believe in a force greater than himself.

1 Cor. 1:27-29

6. Ephraim's complaint!

## H. Rest of Gideon

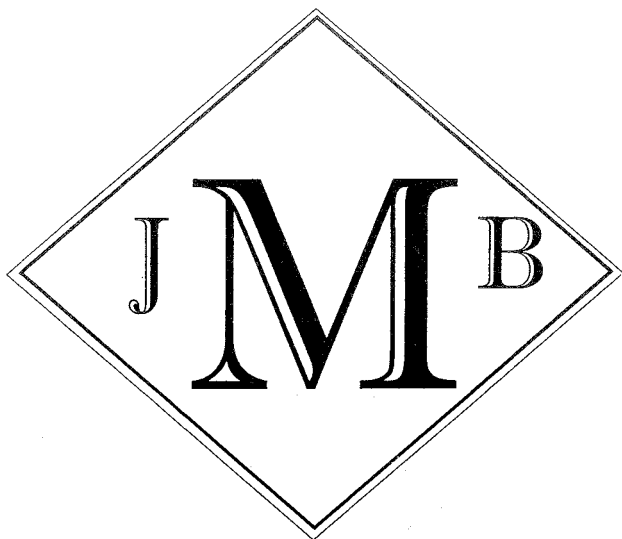
1. Earring mistake to make Ephod whatever the reason. Be it:
  - a) Monument to victory.
  - b) Or worship of God and priesthood at low ebb.
  - c) Still unlawful to do it.
2. Refused Kingship

*Ephraim  
was happy*

3. 40 years of peace.
4. 70 sons and 1 by concubine.
5. Died in good old age.
6. Buried with his people.
7. Israel went a whoring.
8. Remembered not the Lord nor kindness to house of Gideon.

*Abimelech = my father's King*

Woodson Chapel (VBS) - 6/24/02



## TESTED BY WATER

Judges 7:4-7

I. Since I believe water baptism is essential to salvation, I welcome any opportunity to preach on this necessity.

I Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us . . . ."

RSV "Baptism, which corresponds to this now saves you."

Phillips "And I cannot help pointing out what a perfect illustration this is of the way you have been admitted to the safety of the Christian "ark" by baptism, which means of course, far more than the mere washing of a dirty body; it means the ability to face God with a clear conscience.

NCB "This water prefigured the water of baptism through which you are now brought to safety. Baptism is not the washing away of bodily pollution, but the appeal made to God by a good conscience and it brings salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."



A. I do hope you have been baptized.

B. Perhaps like Gideon you are being  
"tried."

II. Now I want to tell the Gideon story.

A. About every 40 years, God sent a Judge to rescue the yo-yo people from sin.

1. They'd drift from righteousness to sin.
2. God would call them back via a deliverer.
3. He'd use enemy forces to make them face their needs.

B. This time He uses Gideon.

1. Descendants of Keturah (Gen.25: 1-4).
2. Dwelt east of Dead Sea.
3. Moses' father-in-law a Midianite (Exo. 3:1).
4. About time of 40 years wandering joined Moabites, seduced Israel into idolatry. (Nu. 25:16-18)
5. Long-standing bitter enemies.
6. 200 years later still after Israel (Judges 6 & 8).
7. Our lesson, with Amalekites made incursions, robbed Israelite farmers, flocks, herds, grain.

8. Threshing floor raised, hide in cave.

9. God called Gideon as Israel devastated.

Judges 6:4 "No sustenance, neither sheep, ox, ass--came with cattle, tents, like grasshoppers for multitude camels without number, entered land to destroy it."

Judges 6:6 "Israel greatly impoverished, cried unto the Lord..."

Judges 6:10 "...but ye have not obeyed my voice."

### C. Gideon's Call

1. Mighty man of valor - vs.
2. Who am I - why" Poor, least.
3. Various proofs of the call.
4. Fleece proof.

## III. Now Tried by Water

### A. Army of 32,000

1. Reduced to 300
2. Dismiss the fearful--ever to rev. it says fearful shall not be saved.
3. Promised - I am with you always.
4. Reduce army so there is no doubt God is author of victory.

B. Reduction in strange way--lap like a dog.

1. We learn even from animals.
2. Aunt Lula said every chicken is thankful.
3. Brought people down to the water.
4. Some under pangs of thirst, threw themselves into water, forgot enemy.
5. Others scoop up a little water and stay alert--no ambush of them.
6. Prepared for any surprise.
7. Experienced in ways of war.
8. No moment of carelessness--even today with car, whiskey, sex.
9. Men of wariness and self-control.
10. God is jealous--wants the glory rightfully.
11. It is God who delivers and wants me to know it.
12. Keep high a noble aim.
13. Set them apart:
  - a) They can win.
  - b) They'll know how the victory came and thus honor God.
  - c) There is one watching us and our attitudes.
  - d) Keep your knee for God alone--not sensual, material, or self.

C. Now invade via spying and hear what they are saying.

"Hear what they say" (V-11 of 7).

1. Barley cake hit tent.
2. Sword of Gideon--delivered Midian.
3. Gideon worshipped--the Lord has past tense, delivered the host of Midian.
4. Thus assured Gideon.
5. Also let him know position of the enemy--God wants us to think (V-9), also V-14.
6. Worship--bow down, prostrate self, humble self.

#### D. Battle Plan

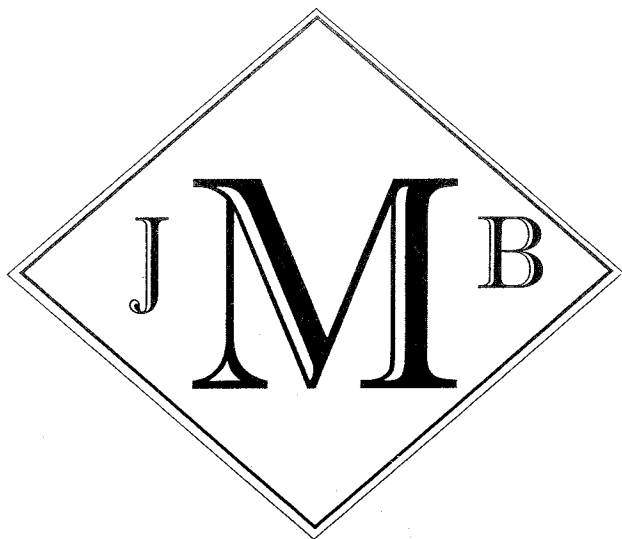
V-17 "Look on me"--do what I do.

1. Divided into three camps.
2. Night time.
3. Do what God says, but use self also.
4. Equipment--trumpet, pitchers, torches.
5. Plus knowledge of what to do.
6. Success needs unity, position, obedience, plan.
7. Beginning of middle watch.
8. Act - obey.
9. Come at enemy when he's asleep from all directions.

10. Confuse enemy.
11. 300 trumpets at one time from all directions.
12. Arouse out of sleep with great noise and 300 spearing lights.
13. 300 trumpets and shout of "The sword of Jehovah and Gideon."
14. Use all common sense.
15. Victory by few and God!

#### IV. Today

- A. Tried by water.
- B. Advance by faith.
- C. Not ignorant of Satan's devise.
- D. You are a soldier of God--avoid "disorderly" - break rank, desert a post.
- E. Gideon served 40 years, begot 71 sons.
- F. There is a trumpet we all will hear--  
**ARE WE TRIED BY WATER?**



# MAN WITH PITCHER, LAMP, TRUMPET & SHOUT

Judges 7:16-24

I. Gideon must **have** been one preplexed guy.

A. 135,000 men march away.

B. Against this enemy he **had** 32,000.

1. Suddenly lost 22,000.

2. Then another 10,000.

3. Left him with 300!

4. And they had a pitcher, torch, trumpet, and a shout - **what are we to do, scare enemy to death?**

C. Gideon had to **learn** God's way and give God glory.

1. His faith stood the test.

2. Learned obedience.

3. "Fear not I am with thee"

4. "More than conquerors"

II. God's Plan

A. Review fleece, creep to camp and now the plan.

1. Take 300 men and put in 3 companies.

a) It will look like 3 companies.

b) Enemy will feel surrounded.

2. Equipment, As Ready for Battle!

a) Trumpet

(1) Each man - "300 Doc Severances"

(2) Blow on signal.

(3) They will think they are attacked by 300 companies.

b) Pitcher

(1) Empty

(2) Earthenware

c) Lamps

(1) Firebrands

(2) Torches

(3) Fan through air to make burn.

(4) They will be w/i pitchers -  
not seen til broken then a  
sudden blaze.

### B. Power of Leadership

"Look on me and do likewise"

1. We need to know exactly what God  
requires of us.

2. Don't take it into your own hands.

Russians Real Bullets - #1

3. Accept nothing on short evidence.

4. Can all follow us?

5. Whittier poem - #2

### III. Plan Executed

A. Great to have a plan but you also have  
to have the game!

B. Stationed outside Midianite camp.

1. Middle watch

a) 3 watches

b) 4 hours each - 6 PM to 6 AM.

c) 6-10 - 1st

d) 10-2 - middle

e) 2-6 - morning

2. Newly set

a) At beginning.

b) Just after 10.

c) Attack at moment of changing  
watch thus some confusion  
already there.

d) Time of deepest sleep.

C. Blew - Broke - Bellowed

1. Blew trumpet for attack.



2. Broke pitcher
  - a) Sudden blaze of light and sound of trumpet would shatter.
  - b) It was in left hand.
3. Bellow Sword of God & Gideon  
God always first.
  - a) Israel's shouts always terrible.
  - b) Broke also stillness of night air.
4. Stood every man in his place.
  - a) Didn't move a foot.
  - b) Not a blow dealt by Isreal.
  - c) Hands so full Gideon's folks almost defenseless.  
Left - Lamp  
Right - Trumpet
  - d) God a jealous God - he lets you take nothing from His glory.
  - e) Thus woke whole camp simultaneously.

#### D. Enemy Action

1. Cried - confused shouts & commands.
2. Ran
3. Fled - wild panic
4. Israel blew again to add to confusion.
5. Sword against his fellows.
  - a) Fought not knowing if friend or foe.
  - b) Terror spread in darkness of night.
  - c) God used wicked to destroy the wicked.
  - d) Fall on anyone in dark that ran by.

## E. Get Ephraim in the Battle

1. Formerly aloof - now drawn into battle.
2. Stop folk at fords and thus prevent escape.
3. Not invited earlier - now needed.  
Higher pay - #3
4. Need everyone who will help.

## F. Victory

1. Place of security became place of slaughter.
2. Oreb = Raven  
Zeeb = Wolf

## IV. Why This Story?

- A. Will you implicitly trust God?  
Cal Thomas - #4
- B. Do you see Him use foolish things to confound the wise? Scrape Beef - #5
- C. When companions need help even if earlier slighted will we come?  
Or do we hinder?
- D. Can I sacrifice selfish claim & bow to God? Piano - Mother home - #6
- E. Will I always obey?
- F. Am I studying word so I will know what to obey? Leisure clip - #7
- G. Will I use only the means God puts at my disposal?
- H. Will I promptly and also intelligently respond to the opportunities?  
Enthusiastically!
- I. Do I see need of unity & cooperation?
- J. Will I not stop til task is completed?

#1  
A Russian track coach interviewed by an American sportswriter, was asked why the Soviets are now producing such fast runners.

"It's really quite simple," the coach replied. "We use real bullets in our starting guns."

Sidney Brody

Higher Pay – On the average, people who are between 5'6" and 6'2" earn approximately \$250 more for every inch of their height per year than their shorter colleagues. X

#3

## The Odds Have It

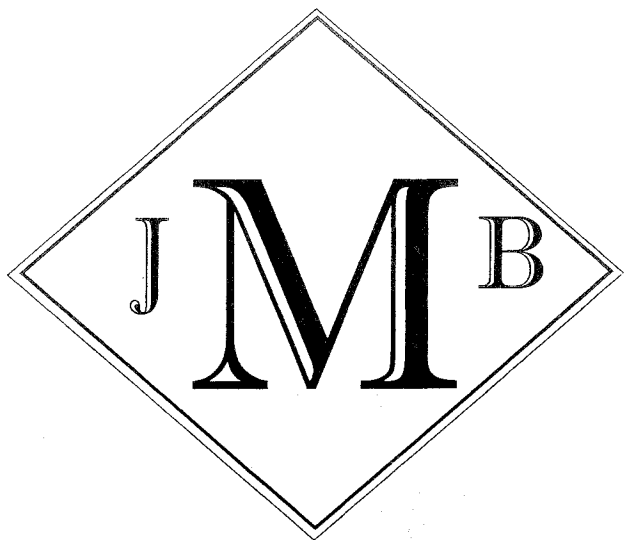
X  
Scrap Beef – Some farmers will have a newborn calf swallow a magnet to attract the variety of nails, staples, wire and tacks that they often ingest while grazing. When the animal is ready to be slaughtered, the butcher removes the magnet and the metal debris and sells the iron and steel for scrap.

Remember when the first person an accident victim asked for was a doctor, not a lawyer? #7

...

Caller, peering through screen door at lad practicing the piano: "Is your mother home?" X

Youngster, not missing a note: "What do you think?"



# IF YOU CAN'T SAY THIS WORD, YOU'LL DIE

## Judges 12:1-7

- I. Let me tell you of a battle & an after battle.
  - A. Jephthah whips Ammon. - Judges 11:32-33
    1. "The Lord delivered them into his hands"
    2. "He smote 20 cities"
    3. "A very great slaughter"
    4. "Thus subdued"
  - B. Evidently he'd asked Ephraim to help.
    1. Tho it's not so told in the narrative, the circumstances of the story demand.
    2. They were biggest tribe.
    3. Joshua came from them.
    4. They didn't help at all.
  - C. Jephthah returns and is accosted by Ephraim
    1. Why didn't you call us?
    2. We'll burn your house c fire.
    3. Did call but you wouldn't come. You wouldn't come for the fight but you will come for the spoils.
    4. Several lessons here:
      - (a) Ephraim resents Jephthah as earlier did Gideon. Makes demands but Jephthah not in bind, Gideon was. G. was pursuing enemy and had to give in. J. has already won & he doesn't have to do anything. You better watch when you make your move.

(b) It's easy to be jealous of success particularly if the little guy out does the big.

(c) "Discord of brethren inflict the deepest wounds. Nowhere does hatred rise higher than where concord is natural." Lange

(d) What man has a right to stand aloof in time of danger?

(e) No man has a right to take spoils of battle he didn't fight.

(f) Tragically, our good deeds can be an offense. *I & my father ... took up stones...*

Jn. 10:32 "Many good works have I showed a few

D. Civil War came

1. Jephthah "gathered together" = muster for battle.

2. Ephraim shouted insults "Ye Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites & among the Manassites."

(a) You are nothing - deserters!  
Trans - Jordan!

(b) You are folk w/o a country

3. Jephthah won. Lessons here too:

(a) Can't reap where you didn't sow.

(b) Jephthah had established his cause as righteous by words said.

(c) Those who use violence may expect the chastisement of violence. (If only E. had wielded arms against enemy as

strong as words against friend,  
there'd been no trouble!

(d) Civil war's ungodly - how could they  
destroy restorer & deliverer of  
Israel.

(e) Sin & contumely beget passion &  
cruelty.

(f) An abusive tongue begets mischief.

E. Eph. tried to escape by denial.

1. Gileadites took fords (passage).

2. Eph. "Let me go over? Are you an  
Eph.? No.

3. Then test - say Shibboleth.

(a) Eph. couldn't, but said Sibboleth. In  
their dialect an s took place of sh.

(b) Perhaps mean "ear of corn" but  
beyond method of identification it  
meant little.

4. If couldn't say password, died. Are we  
false to our profession?

(a) Slip of one word can discredit.

(b) Gospel w/o suffering belongs to  
Heaven. Suffering w/o gospel belongs  
to Hell. Gospel c suffering belongs to  
Earth.

5. 42,000 died.

II. Perhaps today your Spiritual life depends on  
one word - "Nevertheless"

A. One has said

1. Dictionary doesn't inspire

2. Hybrid word.
3. Too long for Scrabble.
4. No beauty about it.
5. Yet a demanding word - it's one of strength that is equal to its length.
6. It allows us to summarize all negations & ride ruff shod over them.
  - (a) As the jetty snaps wave & renders it helpless, so does nevertheless if at the right time we can say it.

B. Let's look at some times

1. Luke 5

- (a) Taught at sea.
- (b) 2 empty boats - (He can fill all)
- (c) Got in Peter's - go out a bit please.
- (d) Taught people.
- (e) Launch out deep - nets.
- (f) Peter objects

Luke 5:5 "Master, we have toiled all night. .

nev. *at thy word I will let down the net*

(g) Lessons

- (1) Some look for sure things - when do we retire, fringe benefits.
- (2) Catch fish at night, shallow, by rested men - not day, deep & tired.
- (3) Resisted all rules c "nevertheless"
- (4) Boy, "What, no dessert! You mean I've been eating for nothing!!"

2. Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified c Christ



(a) Would your mother be proud of this death.

(b) Paul knew power, money, acclaim, wisdom, but gave it up for Jesus.

3. Matt. 26:39 "Fell on his face & prayed saying *"O my father... it be... cup... new."*

(a) "In Jesus name", not a tired post-script.

(b) Screen all we do by Him.

(c) What if God answered every prayer

(1) Dear God, please make Boston the capital of Vermont.

4. Gal. 4:30 "Nevertheless what saith the S.

(a) Here is the full & final answer.

5. Amid trouble God *that com... cast*

2 Cor. 7:5-6 "*We were troubled w/ white... fears... new*

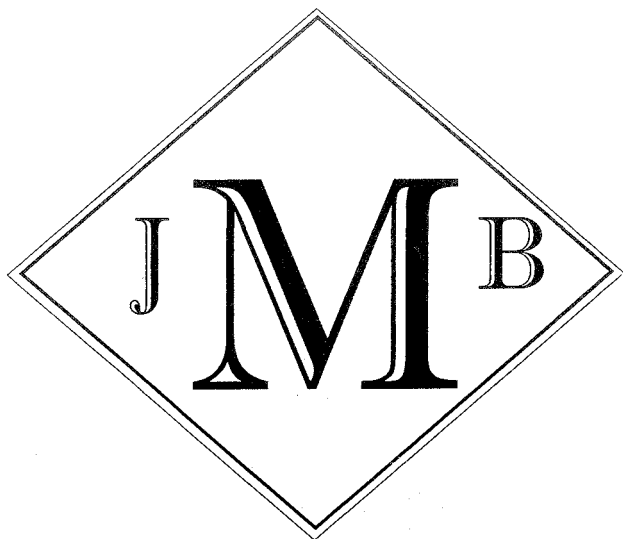
2 Tim. 1:12 *for the which cause I suffer new, etc... I know*

2 Tim. 2:19 *New, the fd of God standeth... seal*

West End 5-4-69

Mayfair Church, Huntsville, Ala. 5-11-69

Sycamore Ch. 9-11-69



- I. Of this dear soul I give the title most unusual mother:
  - A. She almost was not one - she was barren.
  - B. She is unnamed - don't know age, background, talents.
  - C. She, like a few rare births had an angelic announcement of it.
  
- II. This I do know:
  - A. Lived in the times of Israel's later judge - Samson.
  - B. Loved husband, God, His Word with deep respect.
  - C. Earnestly sought to teach her son, be a good wife, and advised both in their maturity.
  
- III. Let's see lessons she teaches us - first her background.
  - A. Part of a counter culture - Israel did evil (Judges 13:1), she didn't.
  - B. Lives in a time of danger - Philistine domination 40 years.
    - 1) Sea people, 12th century BC migrated from Greece to coastal plain of Canaan.
    - 2) Their life focused on five cities - Ashdid, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

- 3) Area Shephelah - low country, often drove Israel to mountains.
  - 4) The town Zorah - 15 miles from Jerusalem.
- C. Tribe of Dan - smallest land allotment, last tribe to get its portion, surrounded by Judah, Ephraim, Benjamin.
- D. Married to Manoah - but barren and anonymous, obscure.
- 1) Only wife - one child.
  - 2) Josephus said Manoah "Best and chiefest person of the country and his wife a woman of exceeding beauty."
  - 3) Believed Word of God and made no inquiry beyond it.

#### IV. Now some events for this unnamed mother.

- A. Encounter with the angel of the Lord, preincarnate Jesus.
- 1) Angels visited famous couples: Abraham and Sarah, Joseph and Mary, Zacharias and Elisabeth.
  - 2) When Israel needed help - send a baby; Moses, Samuel, Jesus.
  - 3) Appeared to the wife two times before husband saw Him.
  - 4) Message - barren, conceive a son.

- 5) You beware - drink no wine or strong drink, eat no unclean thing, no razor on his head, child to be a Nazirite from the womb, shall begin to deliver Israel out of hand of Philistines.

B. Please note:

- 1) Unborn baby not a menace, rather a miracle, an inheritance, not an intruder.
- 2) No one more influential to a child than his mother.
- 3) How can he be right if you live any old way?
- 4) If you want your child to drink, you drink before him.
- 5) Those who seek to save others must by a singular piety distinguish themselves.
- 6) Iron-razor - symbol of death.
- 7) God ever watching and beseeching us to yield and dedicate our bodies as instruments of righteousness - we are a separate people.

C. Nazirite:

- 1) Numbers 6:1-21 gives details
- 2) Ordinarily for a specified time Samson for life - for us too!
- 3) Outward actions and inward dedication should match.

- 4) This is a high privilege, but heavy responsibility.
- 5) Lord wants parents and children to be separate from world and a living sacrifice to Him.

D. He shall begin to deliver Israel out of hands of Philistine (v.5).

- 1) He will shake their power, but not completely deliver Israel as did his predecessors.
- 2) It will not be a complete work.
- 3) He'll not be able to finish the deliverance.
- 4) Others will finish it.
  - a) Take the prayer of Samuel (I Samuel 7).
  - b) Also conquests of David (2 Samuel 5:17-25).
- 5) Samson starts, others lay capstone.
- 6) Jesus is author and finisher of the faith.
- 7) Know men who are great starters but never complete task.

E. Woman came and told her husband (v.6).

- 1) True spirit of a loving and trustful wife.
- 2) Shows that neither man or angel stood before her.

- 3) Many things could have moved her to secrecy.
  - a) Fear of exciting suspicion.
  - b) Risk of being disbelieved.
  - c) Perhaps a stranger deceived her.
  - d) She had no one to corroborate her story.
  - e) Pride - I know something you don't.
  - f) Self-sufficiency.
  - g) Independence - to me, not to him angel came.
- 4) If she trusts her husband, keeps no secret since this involves him via conception.
- 5) Both contribute to stock of wedding happiness - no word of betterness, jealousy, superiority, neither to usurp other's place.
- 6) Bed fellows communicate experiences, even with God.
- 7) Companions help each other.

F. Manoah believed his wife and entreated the Lord.

- 1) Josephus - Adam Clark said he was jealous - no hint of it.
- 2) He believed her - good relationship.
- 3) Let angel come again-did to woman alone sat in field.

- 4) Those who have heard from heaven wish to hear more.
- 5) God in some way will guide those who want to know more.  
Read Psalms 25:8-9
- 6) He that wills to know the doctrine shall be known.
- 7) God likes for me to want Him.

G. Teach us what we shall do unto the child.

- 1) All parents or those about to be should bring cares to God.
- 2) Best safeguard for the child is the consecration of the parents.
- 3) Was it necessary to tell them again what He'd already said?
- 4) Or can we learn it all in one time-repetition to satisfy a craving heart.
- 5) Eager to hear it all, lest we miss any part.
- 6) Even in times of apostacy always some homes that honor God.
- 7) "What is to be the rule of the boy's life?" (NIV)
- 8) Note pronouns: "unto us"-  
"teach us" - "we do."
- 9) Children do not attain best character spontaneously by natural growth- training is necessary.



- 10) Parents too negligent to highest end of their children.
- 11) Chief responsibility of training rests with parents and at first all are amateurs.
- 12) Who doesn't feel an inadequacy for such a task - humble attitude to ask for help (I Kings 3:7-9).
- 13) We must teach the way of righteousness and we count ourselves blessed to have been so taught.

H. God harkened to voice of Manoah.

- 1) Did it His way.
- 2) Came to woman alone in the field.
- 3) Woman made haste and told her husband--did not have the angel follow--they went to him.
- 4) Manoah went after his wife--came to man.
  - a) Art thou the man? Believed word - "when," not "if."
  - b) I am.
  - c) How shall we order the child? Wants more details.
  - d) Repeated instructions - three times by v.14.

## I. Invitation to wait - eat with them.

- 1) Hospitality demanded for favor shown.
- 2) Refused - wouldn't eat their food but would accept a burnt offering.
- 3) Manoah didn't know it was an angel of the Lord.
- 4) What is your name?
- 5) It is secret - wonderful -so is Jesus - literally "who is thy name?"

## J. Kid offering.

- 1) Duty of hospitality and gratitude for kindness received.
- 2) Angels don't need meat.
- 3) When Manoah asked for instruction he got it.
- 4) When Manoah asked for curiosity - silence.
- 5) Wonderful-so grant can't put it all in--my character is beyond your grasp.
- 6) God does not have to give reasons for his actions.
- 7) Angel ascended in the flame.
  - a) Two times - v.19 and 20  
Manoah and wife watched this observable event.
  - b) Looked on and fell to the earth
  - c) Angel's last appearance and they knew it was the Lord.

### K. Surely Die.

- 1) No man sees the Lord and lives (Exodus 33:20).
- 2) Wife reasoned with husband.
  - a) Common sense - can't die and fulfill the promises at the same time.
  - b) Woman's faith greater than man's fears.
  - c) She comforts and encourages her husband.

### V. Woman Bears a Son - Samson.

A. Samson born in time of great need.

B. Name means sunny (brightness) (strong one).

- 1) Give light in time of darkness, be like the sun.
- 2) Had a nation to protect.
- 3) Every birth in a godly home a responsibility to honor the family.
- 4) Brought hope to home, family, and nation.

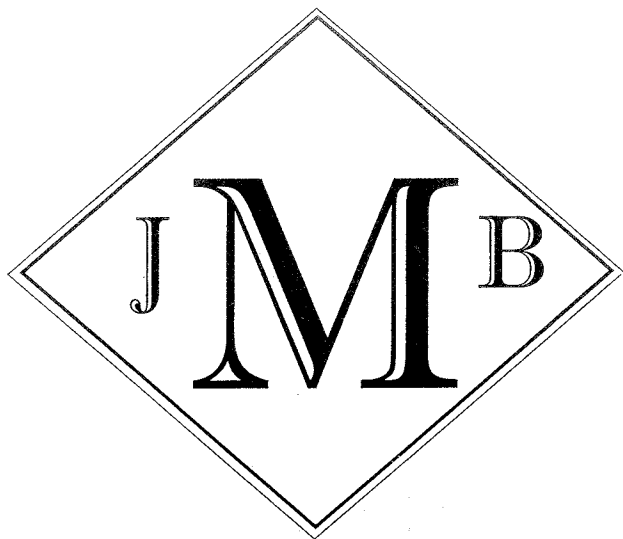
C. Grew and the Lord blessed him.

- 1) Means more than physical strength.
- 2) We still use our individual strength and abilities.

D. Spirit of the Lord began to move him.

- 1) Lord gave him his power.
- 2) Great when children feel the workings of the Lord.
- 3) Camp of Dan.
  - a) Perhaps many times at the camp and as a child heard the war stories.
  - b) Something more than physical strength is his.
  - c) Note "at times" - saw wrongs done his countrymen, beheld their suffering, grieved over their helplessness, had zeal for deliverance and felt an honor for God in this believed heart, bringing times of ecstatic fervor.

Neely's Bend BC - 5/12/02  
 Locust Grove, KY - 5/19/02  
 Silver Point - 6/8/02  
 West Nashville Heights - 8/6/02  
 Berry's Chapel (Ladies Breakfast) - 9/14/02  
 Erin, TN - 9/16/02  
 Graymere, Columbia, TN - 11/17/02



# Samson's Greatest Enemy is Samson

Judges 14

- I. One of the most famous of Judges.
  - A. Yet no army, the exploits were personal.
  - B. He began--not completed the deliverance of Israel.
  - C. Had an angel foretell birth.
  - D. Performed great deeds single-handedly.
  - E. Had more acts recorded of moral and spiritual weaknesses than any other Judges.
  - F. Time of great crisis.
  - G. Battled the Philistines- God's great enemy.
  - H. Via Nazarite--a separated man from drink, barbers, death.
  - I. First recorded act a violation of the law.
  - J. Lived at a time when every man did what was right in own eyes.
    1. Boone song - feels so good must be right.
    2. Hemingway - feels good, do it.
- II. We'll see some words repeated.
  - A. Down most prominent.
  - B. Elevation and morals.
  - C. Timnath at end of valley that separated Israel and Phil.

D. Timnath - place of initial contact with the Philistines.

E. Saw a woman - our second word.

1. Weakness was women.

2. Their religion seemed to make little difference to him.

III. Spoke to parents about the bride.

A. The time honor way - honor parents fifth commandment.

B. Marriage so important - need guidance of parents.

C. Parents have property in their children and this is being transferred

D. Unkind and ungrateful not to consult them.

Prov. 28:24 Whoever robbeth his father...

E. Ever keep respect of parents, after all he will need them for dowry.

F. I have seen a woman - get her for me.

1. Is she a toy?

2. Is one to be consulted.

G. Parental reaction.

1. No woman among brethren.

2. Religion plays a roll.

3. Uncircumcized a slam?

4. Contrary to law.

Ex. 34:16

5. Yet marriage said to be of the Lord.

6. How do you imagine parents felt?
7. Pitiful when parents are ignored.
8. His senses to be satisfied at all costs.

Ex. 34:16

9. They remind him of nation's claims

H. Great parents are consulted.

1. Necessary for further arrangements
2. Their cooperation necessary to his arrangements.
3. Only through intervention by them can he succeed.

I. Get her.

1. In East parents arranged it.
2. Bad match beginning of trouble.
3. Do we marry in the Lord?
4. Can we have full fellowship with one outside of Christ?

I. Cor. 7:39

*Marry only in the Lord*

J. Please me.

1. Get right in my eyes.
2. Driven only by his glands.
3. Eyes got him in trouble.
4. Pleasure overruns purpose.
5. Sensuality dominates his life - divine calling does not overcome this.
6. Do we flagrantly disregard the spiritual?



7. Most important thing:
  - a) Please parents.
  - b) Please me.
  - c) Please God.
8. Don't allow yourself to fall in love with wrong person.

K. Knew not it was of the Lord - sought occasion against Philistines.

1. Lord permitted this.
2. Lord uses impiety to create an occasion.
3. He can turn our bad events to His purpose and good.
4. Read Psalms 32:8-9.
5. More than a wedding is divinely intended.
6. Samson's foolishness nor his stubbornness is going to prevent God from accomplishing His purpose.
7. God can use even our sinfulness to bring to pass His will.
8. No indication of any improper relationships prior to marriage.
9. All they did was talk - verse 7.

IV. The Vineyard Detour.

A. Our word "down" again.

B. Vineyard

1. Seems to leave the main road on a little detour.
2. Parents not with him.

3. Vineyard a dangerous place for a Nazarite - do nothing with grapes.
4. Bad enough to disobey God, but he's making a joke of it.
5. Wandered away all by himself.

C. Young lion roared against him.

1. Note young.
2. We all have our lion attacks
3. Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him.
  - a) Not the last time this happens.
  - b) See 14:19; 15:14.
4. Rent as a baby goat - though nothing in his hand.
5. Didn't tell parents - don't keep secrets from your best friends.

D. Went down - talked.

1. Our word again.
2. Betrothal increased his happiness
3. Talked - no improper relations.

Prov. 14:12 *There is a way which seems right*

4. She pleased Samson.

V. After a time he returns.

- A. Don't know how long the interval was.
- B. Turned to see carcass of lion and found swarm of bees.
  1. Most unlikely agent (bees) can further God's plan.

2. Bees opened door
3. Would not use filthy for hive.
4. Took honey in his hands and ate.
5. Took some to parents without telling them where it came from.

IV. With God's help a feast is made.

- A. Even father went down.
- B. Customary to follow this wedding plan.
- C. Brought thirty companions.
  1. Social competition perhaps beyond his means.
  2. We like to flaunt wealth.
  3. Does this feast show insincerity of Philistines in welcoming Samson?
- D. Proposed a Riddle.
  1. Strange it has to do with a vow he broke.
  2. Thirty changes.
    - a) Dress rarely changes in Asia.
    - b) Thirty sets underwear, thirty new suits.
    - c) Didn't mind freeloading at party, later furious they may have to pay something.
  3. Riddle - verse 14.
  4. Three days and no luck.
  5. Oftentimes proposed one they knew could not be unraveled.

6. Dire consequences for failure.
  - a) Drink great portions fresh water.
  - b) Or water, wine, sea water.
  - c) Compelled to drink in on drought without taking breath, hands tied behind back.
7. Seventh day - crisis.

#### E. Entice

1. First enticed, then controlled him, then betrayed him the way the world treats a compromising believer.
2. Get answers or we'll burn with fire.
3. Resented being out-guessed by long-haired Hebrew.
4. She wept-hate me-won't tell me-wept seven days.
5. Turned on water works.
6. Pressured him into failure.
7. He told her--she told them.

#### F. Ploughed with my heifer.

1. Unfaithful to husband.
2. Your interest was more precious to her than I was.
3. See her infidelity.
4. He needed to learn can't trust Philistines.
5. Heifer
  - a) Joined with him via same yoke.

b) Call you a heifer?

c) Did what you did by breaking the rules.

G. Spirit of Lord came again on him.

1. Needed to learn to live humbly.

2. Not to show off own abilities.

3. Three times spirit came on him - later.

Judges 15:14

H. To Ashkelon

1. Twenty miles, some say twenty-four.

2. Began to deliver Israel.

3. Here got garments he needed.

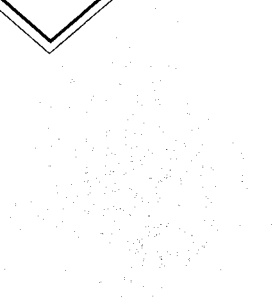
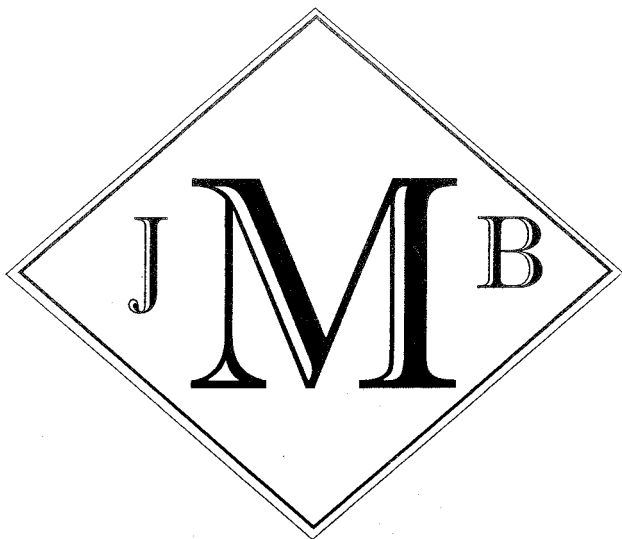
4. Were special victims at Ashkelon.

5. Anger kindled - if you keep your secrets won't be betrayed.

I. Went to his father's house.

J. Wife given to his best man.

Woodson Chapel (VBS) - 6/25/02



# A STRANGE WEDDING FEAST

Judges 14:10

- I. People do bigger things at weddings.
  - A. Marry in airplanes.
  - B. Divers--marry under water.
  - C. But Samson's is most unusual.  
Names means Little Sun or strong.
- II. Set the stage: To tell 14X in Heb. text.
  - A. Over objection of parents he is marrying a Philistine woman, Manoah daddy.
  - B. Said it was a way to get at them--and it was "of the Lord."
    1. We do well to analyze our motives for marriage.  
I see "woman"--emphasis--what do we see?
    2. Are we honest in our approach?
      - a) Companionship--Broken vows.
      - b) Sex--Physical vs Spiritual.
      - c) Money.
      - d) Expected of you.
  - C. You remember the lion story--spirit of the Lord upon him--rent lion with bare hands as you would a kid goat. Lions rush us to destroy.
    1. Told not his parents.
    2. How much do we keep from them?  
Why?
    3. Note it's the Spirit of the Lord though that empowers him--that's his strength not self.
  - D. Talked to the woman--pleased him.
  - E. On return saw swarm of bees in carcass of the lion.

1. Ate of it.
2. Shared with parents--they ate.
3. Didn't tell where he got the honey.
4. Bees avoid decomposition.

III. Here we pick up our story--v. 10.

A. Father goes down.

1. Don't know why he went alone.
2. Etiquette demand it?

B. Samson made a feast. Heb. drinking one.

1. Customary, gold olé boy spirit.
2. Courteous act, yet violates Naz. vow.

C. Guest produced 30 companions to be with him--suggest wealth.

1. Both sides of the aisle respond.
2. None of Samson's folks there except parents.
3. These 30 were watching--not good friends.

4. Worldly wife & worldly friends a sad combo.

5. Some reason Samson had no friends there.

D. Samson puzzled them with a riddle (v. 12-14). READ

1. Intricate, twisted.
2. Sheets were shirts, linen, worn next to skin--30 sets underwear, 30 new suits.

3. Bets produce little good.

4. Men could not unfathom.

5. 7th day men to wife.

a) Threatened her--Jolly folk edgy.



- b) Burn her.
  - (1) Later did (15:6).
  - (2) Only temporary delay.
- c) Take what we have--save our necks even if it ruins your home.
- d) Some ask "invite to feast or to plunder," freeloader but won't pay.

#### E. Wife Drafted.

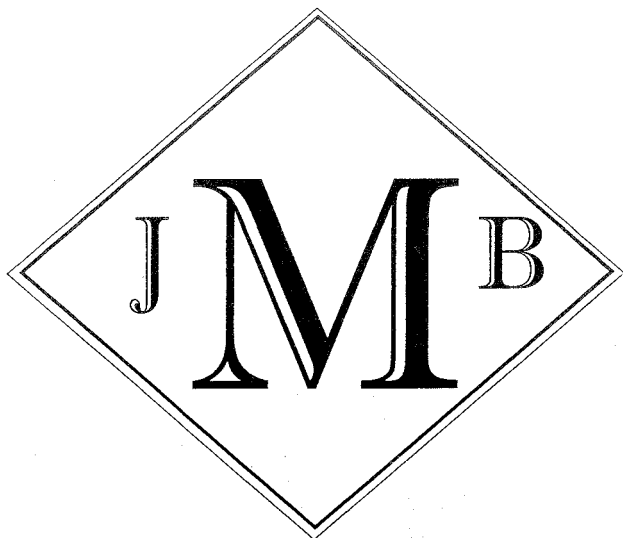
1. She wants to raise chance of Philistines. Pressure 14:17 16:16.
2. Things against Samson's marriage.
  - a) Different religion.
  - b) Motives involved and intrigue.
  - c) Language.
  - d) Customs.
3. Don't base choice on:
  - a) Beauty
  - b) Vanity
  - c) Wealth
  - d) Position
4. She cried--great weapon.
  - a) 7 days of feast she cried.  
Analyze a tear? Powerful.
  - b) 7th day told her--at the very last--could she keep a secret a few hours?
  - c) Had told her he'd not even told his parents--I'm sure that helped her feelings! Was she 2nd fiddle?
  - d) He told--she told (v.17).
5. Lessons:
  - a) There are illegitimate ways to get the truth.

- b) Sensuality Samson's weakness.
  - c) In life leave no unguarded place.
  - d) What leads you to succumb.
  - e) World is full of misplaced trust.
  - f) "Lay sore" pressed him--what pressure is hardest on you?
  - g) How well do we confide with our spouse?
  - h) Why did wife waver? Can we be depended on?
6. Introduces famous "plowed with my heifer."
- a) Suggests infidelity.
  - b) Knew their source but still paid off.

#### F. Results

1. Went to Askelon--24 miles south on Mediterranean Sea.
2. Killed 30 men and got his changes of raiment. Deliverance from evil is messy.
3. Left his wife in anger.
4. She goes to Samson's dear friend, she learns the hard way.
5. Samson went to parents home--good to have a spot, Zorah.
6. We see reasons parents objected to this union.

Granny White VBS - 7/10/95  
 Hillsboro 60+ group - 7/10/95



## DOWN TO THE VALLEY OF THE VINE

Judges 16:4

- I. We descend with Samson and we've no business being there.
  - A. Sorek means vine and of all places a Nazarite does not need to be it's in the vines.
    - 1. Touch no corpse or drink.
    - 2. No razor among other negatives.
  - B. We just left Samson coming from the harlot of Gaza.

Prov. 2:18

- C. It seems so out of place for a servant of God to seek the services of a prostitute.
- D. Yet with government & church officials we see it happen.

1 Cor. 10:12

- E. Valley of the Vines he'll be betrayed as he goes down to be with the enemy.

II. We'll meet Delilah.

- A. Only woman named in all the stories of Samson--even his mother.
- B. Strongest man ever lived yet we see his weakness.
  - 1. Slave to his passions yet ranked with the firm in faith (Heb. 11:32).
  - 2. Being found on devil's ground he fell into his snare.
  - 3. Ever in danger of this passion.
  - 4. We can't help being tempted, but we do not have to put ourselves in Devil's way.

C. Valley of Sorek we meet Delilah.

1. Debate meaning of her name--be it Devotee, Flirtatious.
2. Some call her religious prostitute.
3. Semetic name not even Philistine?
4. This valley not far from his own abode, so surely not his wife.

III. The Lords of the Philistines hire her.

A. Was their number 5--each with 1100 pieces of silver to pay her.

B. Entice him.

1. Magnificent offer so she must be a powerful woman.
2. They know his strength, they do not know his weakness.
3. Illicit sex may start by being sweet but becomes sour as wormwood as she will lead Samson to slaughter.
4. As she begins to probe for his secret he should have been aware of the danger and run like Joseph.

C. Wherein is his strength?

1. We must prevail against him.
2. Bind him.
3. Afflict him.
4. Pay 1100 pieces each.
5. So she has her assignment.

IV. There were 3 Inquiries

A. Delilah overly bold.

1. Wherein is thy strength?
2. Might bound and afflict thee?
3. Just what would it take to give warning?

4. We prayerfully need to preserve purity.
  5. How could he relax with this request--had he won too many victories to be careful?
  6. Why so relax is moral fiber?
  7. We can be totally blinded by woman's infatuation--he will even allow his hair to be tampered with--so near the end!
- B. Bind with 7 green withes--never dried--weak as other men. *Bowstrings*
1. Fresh thongs--old gut stronger.
  2. Samson guilty of lying and folly when he should have been forewarned.
  3. Been immune to danger--would he always so be?
  4. 7 green withes and bound him.
- C. Men lying in wait abiding in her chamber--inner parts of her house.
- D. Philistine be upon thee, Samson.
1. Signal for enemy to come.
  2. Popped as threads of tow as touched by fire.
  3. "Strength was not known."
- E. 2nd effort by Delilah.
1. You mocked me and told me lies.
  2. Now tell me wherewith be bound.
  3. This time new ropes, never occupied.
  4. Philistines be upon thee.
  5. Liars in wait still in chambers.
  6. Break like a thread.

## F. 3rd Effort

1. Same appeal
2. Weave 7 locks of my head with the web.
3. She fastened it with a pin.
4. Philistines be upon thee.
5. Awakened--went away with pin of beam and with web.
6. Note Delilah kept working on Samson and he seems dumb as an ox.

G. Pressed him daily with her words, urged him, soul vexed unto death.

1. Continual emotional barrage is exhausting his power of resistance.
2. She just has to know the secret or she'll die of anguish.
3. Heb. words--weaken, impoverish.

## V. Now comes the 4th attack

A. He told her all his heart.

1. That they would renew attempts after 3 failures shows confidence in her that she'd win him over.
2. His eyes open to her wiles though he did go to sleep in her lap.
3. He repeated:
  - a) No razor - Numbers 6:7.
  - b) Nazarite unto God from birth.
  - c) Shaven strength leaves.
  - d) Be weak like other men.

B. Delilah called for the Lords--come at once--bring money--payment in advance.

1. Sleep in her lap--sleep in lap of lust--wake up in hands of Philistines.
2. Called for man to shave 7 locks.
3. Began to afflict him.
4. Saw strength went from him.
5. Philistines are upon thee.
6. Awoke, go out as before, shake myself.
7. Knew not the Lord had departed from him.
  - a) Exhausted God's patience.
  - b) Lost God in house of adultery.
  - c) Fruit of disdainng folks' advice.
  - d) Presumed upon God's mercy.

## VI. End of Samson

- A. Put out eyes after seizing him.
  1. No longer gaze on unholy beauty.
  2. Eyes inlets to his sins.
  3. Neutralize his power, torture him, and use him for their purpose.
- B. Put him in fetters.
  1. Spiritually bound and imprisoned.
  2. Feet fettered to the mill.
- C. Howbeit the hair began to grow.
  1. Old power can return.
  2. Faith return?
  3. Did they expect his repentance and renewal of vow?
  4. Power not in hair but dedication to God.



- D. Lords sacrifice to Dagon.
1. Tribute to false God.
  2. Dagon Sea Idol--head and upper body human, rest fish.
  3. God of grain.
  4. Samson heard all this.
  5. Festival of praise to Dagon.
  6. Great praise ascribed Dagon.
  7. Failed to credit Jehovah.
  8. Made merry--roof & everywhere.
  9. Our God delivered!
- E. Called for Samson to make sport.
1. Taunted him.
  2. Lad led him by the hand.
- F. Samson requested to feel the pillars
1. House full
  2. Lords there
  3. 3000 on roof--would help it collapse.
- G. Samson called unto the Lord (v. 28)
1. Can pray in Dagon's temple and be heard.
  2. Remember me.
  3. Strengthen me this once.
  4. Avenge for my 2 eyes.
- H. With right & left arm took hold of 2 middle pillars where house stood.
1. Let me die with Philistines.
  2. Bowed himself with all his might.
  3. House fell.
  4. Slew more in death than all his life.

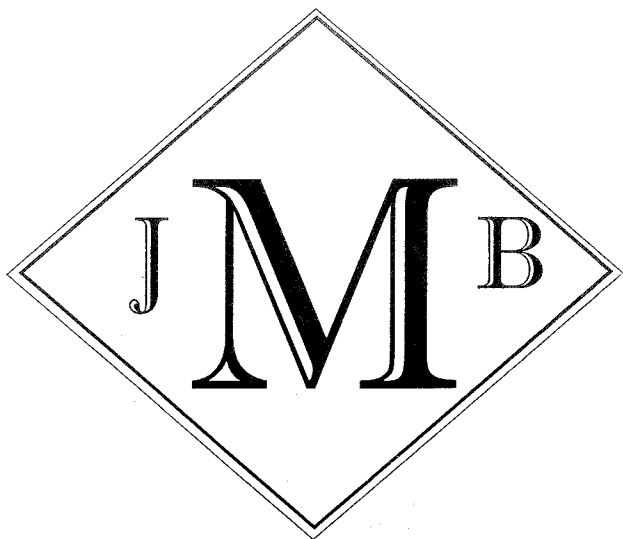
I. Brethren came and buried him.

1. Brethren word with broad meaning.
2. Philistines gave no objection.
3. Judged Israel 20 years.

Woodson Chapel - 6/26/02

Walter Hill - 6/30/02

Cheap Hill - 7/22/02



YOU TOOK AWAY MY HANDMADE GODS--WHAT  
/ HAVE YOU LEFT ME?  
Judges 18:22-26

I. I suppose none doubts these are days of shifting values and altered loyalties.

A. We are not the 1st.

B. Nor will we be the last.

C. Question is - where do I stand?

II. Tell story of Micah & his gods. Judges 17 & 18.

A. Recovery of 1100 shekels of silver.

1. Large amt.

2. Stolen - curse of Mother - confession of son.

3. Mother blessed Micah.

(a) Made graven image.

(b) Made molten image.

B. In Israel Micah has a chapel of Gods.

1. Imagine decadency.

2. Sought to coordinate c worship of God!

3. No law in land - each did what was right in own eyes. (V. 6)

4. Micah had ephod (garment?) & teraphim (image) & made one of his sons priest.

C. Young Levite of Judah comes.

1. Evidently Moses grandson.

2. Think for far they fell!

3. Came from Bethlehem.

4. Looking for work to live.

5. Hired for priest & father - 10 shekels per yr. - clothes & food.

6. "Now the Lord will do me good - I have a Levite" buckeye, rabbit's foot, thee in prayer!

D. Danites come:

- 1. Largest tribe, smallest allotment to conquer, still failed - wonder why?
- 2. Recognized hired priests voice.
- 3. Used him as an oracle - went their way.

E. Danites return.

- 1. 600 men of war (really a migration - families & all with them (V. 21)
- 2. 5 men told of chapel.
- 3. While 600 talked it seems 5 men robbed the chapel.
- 4. Priest, "What do ye?" - alarmed.
- 5. Lay hand on mouth - oldest gesture of silence.
- 6. Hired away this grandson of Moses.
- 7. Micah in anguish chased "What ails thee? Note "gods I made".
- 8. All to no avail.

III. We may not have graven images, but we've governing ideas. Let's study some.

- A. Dr. Barry Callen in "Where Life Begins" said we had some simple adjectives that guide us.
  - 1. Geographical morality.
    - (a) The setting determines our pattern of living.
    - (b) When in Rome, etc.
    - (c) We behave ourselves at church - curse at work.
  - Amos 5:24 "Let justice roll down like rivers & rt. like
  - (d) Religion for my grandfather was an experience, for my dad a tradition, & for me a nuisance."
  - (e) Card on Utopia.
  - 2. The Historical Morality.

(a) Right way is the way we've always done it.

(b) Don't rock boat of tradition.

(1) Card on "All our fathers."

(2) Card on Theology.

(3) Card on Russian Orthodoxy.

### 3. The Statistical Morality.

(a) Majority - everyone does it.

(b) If all kids dance & drug, I should!

(c) If every church has a sign - we should.

(d) Is truth determined by a 2/3 vote?

(e) Is there not a higher standard?

(1) Striking part of Paul's letters - were the linkage of "therefore" with what you believe. "Because you believe these things & have rec. new life therefore you are expected to live certain way."

(2) Standard is Christ.

(a) Clip on Ne Plus Ultra.

2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ,

Rom. 6:5 "For if we have been planted together

B. D. G. Kehl recently wrote of the Grammar of Grace.

#### 1. Wrong pronoun.

Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified c Christ

Rom. 7-41 I's in 25 verses.

#### 2. Wrong number.

I Jn. 4:4 "Greater is he that is in

Eph. 3:20 "Able to do exceeding abundantly

#### 3. Wrong tense.

Phil. 3:13-14 This I thing I do forgetting

2 Cor. 6:2 Behold now is the day of

Tit. 2:11-12 "The grace of God that br.

4. Wrong voice: passive instead of active.

Jn. 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my c.

Card on Karl Marx.

5. Wrong mood - subjunctive (doubt) vs. indicative (certainty).

Satan, "If thou be the son of God"

2 Tim. 1:12 "I know whom

Jn. 8:32 "Ye shall know the truth

Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do my will

6. Wrong preposition.

Matt. 12:30 "He that is not c me is

Col. 1:27 Christ in you

C. Shall I change world?

1. Learn - education the ans.

2. Earn - money is.

3. Burn - violence.

4. Turn - be converted.

2nd End 2-4-73

The root of the word utopia reminds us that whatever it is, it hardly can be reality. The Greek ou and topos, from which we derive utopia, literally mean "not a place." Utopian thinking remains a dream extending beyond the real and possible. So the typical conclusion: we choose to be realists who cannot afford the luxury of being innocent idealists in this kind of world; Christianity is a lovely fantasy for persons who are well-intentioned and naive.

"Where Life Begins" - By Barry Callen - Page 15

All our fathers have been churchmen  
Nineteen hundred years or so  
And to every new suggestion  
They have always answered "No!"

"Where Life Begins!" - By Barry Callen - Page 45



Before Columbus dared to cross the Atlantic Ocean, maps of Europe identified the expanse west of Gibraltar with the Latin words Ne Plus Ultra--"nothing beyond." After America's discovery it was suggested that the ne should be dropped, leaving Plus Ultra--"everything beyond."

"Where Life Begins!" - By Barry Callen - pp. 66-67

In London's Highgate Cemetery a huge granite pillar has been placed on top of the grave of Karl Marx. On it sits a bust of Marx with these classic words of his chiseled on the granite: "The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point however is to change it." At least at this point Christians agree with Karl Marx. The world does need to be changed. Important as theology is, it is but the beginning, the foundation which seeks to be concrete in order that it can bring about a change.

"Where Life Begins!" - By Barry Callen - Page 89

Think of it! What if Rip were to be joined in his aimlessness by the Christian church. Remaining "pure" in relative isolation may stem from holy motives. But it also borders on **irresponsibility**. Has anyone recently managed to avoid the feeling that some people in the church resort to well-intentioned rearguard actions against the hard issues of current human existence? While revolution was raging in Petrograd in 1917, the Russian Orthodox Church was in session having a hot debate--about what color vestments their priests should wear! How easy to major in minors while the world dies around us!

"Where Life Begins!" - By Barry Callen - Page 100

