



## **No Good Excuse**

### **June 4, 2017**

### **Judges 4:1-10**

*“Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, now that Ehud was dead”*  
(Judges 4:1).

The Book of Judges can illustrate the biography of almost every person at one time or another. The cycle is familiar. First, we repent and begin obeying God. Second, we begin disobeying God. Third, God disciplines us. Fourth, we cry out to God for help. Fifth, we begin obeying God again. Sixth, we disobey God again. The cycle repeats itself. God sent the Israelites prophets and judges to interrupt the cycle so they could enjoy many years of peace under the leadership of a judge until he died. Then, the Israelites turned back to worshiping the idols of their neighbors and to practicing the evil these idols required. As punishment, God would send enemies to defeat the Israelites in battle, and when they cried out to God to save them from their cruel oppressors, God raised up judges who with God’s help led them to victory. Deborah was the most godly, morally mature, and spiritually sensitive of all the judges. She conveyed the Word of God to God’s chosen commander and told him how many soldiers to recruit, which tribes in Israel they should come from, where they should go, and where they should fight. Deborah accompanied him and he obeyed everything God commanded through her. Then God fought on the side of Israel by leading the Canaanites into battle where God chose, and then God sent torrential rains to make their 900 iron chariots useless in the mud. The Israelites probably gave many poor excuses for their cycle of disobedience, but the followers of Jesus have no excuse for cycles of disobedience, because Jesus Christ lives within them to empower and guide them.

### **Thinking Further**

1. Why were the Israelites defeated so many times after the death of Joshua and Caleb?

2. Why did God raise up judges among the Israelites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who was the most moral, godly, and spiritually sensitive judge in the Book of Judges?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When Barak agreed to do what he was commanded, what condition did he set before he would take action? Why do you think he did so?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In all of the battles that Israel fought in the Book of Judges, what side did God fight on in each battle?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.  
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