



# BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## The Rescuers Judges 3:7-5:31



**To achieve God's best for us we must break the cycle of disobedience and discipline.**

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God's mission

In 1977 the Disney animated film "The Rescuers", nominated for two Academy Awards, was released with the story line of two mice (voices by Bob Newhart and Eva Gabor) rescuing a little orphan girl. This week's study in Judges shows how God used actual rescuers to deliver Israel from oppressors that had been brought on the scene by God to discipline them. First, a triumphant trio is introduced in chapter 3. When Israel, oppressed by a foreign king, cried out to God, He responded by raising up Othniel, Caleb's son-in-law, to deliver them. By the Spirit of the Lord he led Israel to victory, and they were at peace for forty years. Sadly, Israel then did evil again so God strengthened Eglon, Moab's king, to subdue them. He enlisted Ammon and Amalek

and together they defeated Israel, and he ruled them for eighteen years. Again, Israel prayed to God and He sent Ehud, a left-handed man, to deliver them. He personally killed Eglon under the guise of taking him tribute from Israel. Requesting a private audience with Eglon, he took his dagger from his cloak and stabbed him; the knife was buried in Eglon's flesh because he was so fat. When his death was discovered Ehud had escaped; he then called the Ephraimites to war and they defeated Moab. This time the land was at rest for eighty years. A third deliverer, Shamgar, then struck down 600 Philistines with an ox-goad, saving Israel. Lapsing again into evil and calling out to God, Israel was delivered by a dynamic duo—Deborah, a judge, and Barak, the mili-

tary commander. She summoned him to defeat Hazor who then ruled them, but he agreed only if she would go with him. She consented but said the honor of killing Sisera, Hazor's commander, would go to a woman. This indeed occurred; once Barak had led Israel to victory, Sisera escaped on foot, running into the tent of Jael, wife of Heber. She waited until he was asleep and drove a tent peg through his head. This entire event was then captured in song, with the revelation that God had intervened from the heavens to bring victory. Using the rescuers He had saved them.

## Study Questions for Judges 3:7-5:31

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

1. Read Judges 3:7-11. Describe the 1st (v7), 2nd (v8), 3rd (v9) and 4th (v9) steps of Israel's cycle of disobedience and deliverance? Who delivered them (v9) and how (v10)? What was the outcome (v11)?	
2. In 3:12-30 who oppressed Israel next (v13-14) and why (v12)? Who did God use to deliver them (v15) and how did it happen (v16-17, 18-23, 24-25, 26-28)? What was the outcome (v29, 30)?	
3. Using 3:31 who was the next deliverer and how did he do it? How did it turn out? What does this show about how God delivers? Apply.	

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## Judges 3:7-5:31 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Judges 4:1-10 what 3 things occurred after Ehud died (v1-3)? Who did God use to deliver Israel (v4-5) and what was the plan (v6-7)? What was the response (v8) and its result (v9-10)? Do you think this was good or bad?

5. Based on 4:11-17 how was the stage set for victory (v11—see v17, v12-13)? What did Deborah instruct (v14) and what did Barak do (v14-16, 17)?

6. Looking at 4:18-24 describe the interchange between Jael and Sisera (v18-20) and how he died (v21)? Who was told (v22) and why do you think he was? What was the final outcome and why (v23-24)?

7. In 5:1-11 what was composed (v1) and what did it celebrate (v2, 3-5, 9-11)? What conditions were depicted (v6-8) before the days of deliverance?

8. According to 5:12-18 who fought with Barak (v12, 13-14, 15, 18) and who didn't (v16-17)?

9. Using 5:19-27 what was the result of the battle (v19) and how did God help Israel (v20-22)? Who was cursed and why (v23)? Who else was celebrated (v24-27)?

10. Read 5:28-31. Describe the inner turmoil of Sisera's mother during his battle (v28, 29, 30). How did the song regard this (v31) and why? What was the outcome (v31)?

11 Review who oppressed Israel, who delivered them, and how in Jud 3-4. How are the first 3 and last 1 different? Who was the real hero and the real villain in Jud 3-4 and how does the song (Jud 5) capture this?

### Scripture to Remember

“That the leaders led in Israel,  
that the people volunteered,  
Bless the Lord.”

**Judges 5:2 (NASB)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—A Kangaroo Court (Luke 22:66-23:25)

*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share about an experience you had when summoned for jury duty. How does it feel when it seems that the judge or jury is biased? Define “justice”.
2. Look at Luke 22:66-71. What shows that the council wasn't seeking justice? How does this compare to God's heart—see Deut 16:18-20? Why does justice “feel right:”?
3. Talk about how Jesus handled the trials before Annas (John 18:13, 19-24), Caiphas, and the Sanhedrin (Matt 26:57-64). How was He able to take this approach?
4. Thinking also about Jesus' other trials before Pilate and Herod (Lk 23:1-13), what was everyone's motive? Why does our “flesh” want to silence Jesus? How does this occur?
5. Read Hebrews 4:15 and explain its meaning. Why is Pilate's declaration “I find no fault in Him” (Lk 23:14) so important, in light of this? In other words how does this impact us—both everyday and eternally?
6. Discuss “unjust” situations in our lives—and how we should apply the example of Jesus—His silence and speaking only the simple truth. Be specific.
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if time permits.