



# *ANOINTED WARRIOR*

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Evil never stops itself. Evil never stops itself. So God sends people to get in the way and make it stop. That's what we're dealing with in the days of judges as well as our own day. If you've got a Bible, go to the book of Judges and tell me if this ancient book from 3000 years ago doesn't sound particularly contemporary. Number one, they failed to secure their border. They had an open border and they were invaded by enemies. Number two, they had defunded their police. And so it says that there was anarchy in the streets, and the major cities were not even habitable by good families and godly people, and they couldn't travel at night. And subsequently, everyone, judges 2125 says, was only doing what was right in their own eyes, and they were not doing what was right in the eyes of God. We are looking into the word of God to see not just what happened 3000 years ago, but what is happening in our own day. And we're in the middle of an election year. This is gonna be quite a year. Uh, I think any way that this concludes, we're in a head-on collision, a civil war, and it is going to be quite a situation. So what we are doing, we're anticipating and preparing where culture is going in our day by looking at the days of the judges. We're seeing the same themes and patterns, and we wanna prepare ourselves for that same future. And so the story of judges is that their borders were not secure and they were invaded, and then they were oppressed for 20 years. They didn't have the military capacity to fight back. The government lacked nerve and the police departments were defunded. So it was 20 years of cruel oppression. Just when you think it can't get any worse, read your Bible, it can 20 years, 20 years of oppression in judges, chapter four, verse three is translated in various English bibles. As such, they were oppressed, cruelly ruled with cruelty and violence. It made life unbearable, forcibly oppressed, and ruthlessly oppressed. After 20 years, God's people got sick of it. They kept having different politicians. They kept having different movements and protests and different marketing campaigns. And nothing moved the needle because they had a God-sized problem. I will submit to you today that ordination and western culture has a God-sized problem. And unless God shows up, nothing is going to change. And finally, what happens in chapter four, verse three of judges, it says that they cried out to the Lord. And then the Lord sent down an anointing on this amazing woman of God named Deborah. You'll learn a lot more about her today. But finally they reached what I will call a desperate place. Let me say that a desperate place can be a wonderful place. Yes, some of you right now, you're in a desperate place. They were in a desperate place. Some of you, your marriage is in a desperate place. Your business is in a desperate place. Your wayward prodigal child is in a desperate place. Your health is in a desperate place. And ultimately you need to just stop and cry out to the Lord, right? You need to meet with God. You need to invite God. You need to repent of any sin that you have committed that has contributed to your problems, and then invite him as the solution. Yes. And they finally did that. And some of you right now, you're discouraged or you're frustrated or you're anxious because you're in a desperate place. And what we know is going into election season, we're all in a little bit of a desperate place. And what we need to do is not just assume that with time things will get better, but with the Lord, all things can get better. And then God's people need to spend their time crying out to him, worshiping him, praying to him. And as soon as they start crying out, his anointing comes down on this amazing woman of God, Debra and everything can change if God raises up one spirit filled anointed leader. And he does that with this incredible woman. So we'll jump into Judges four beginning in verse six. And you're gonna learn about her. She, that is Deborah sent and summoned Barack. You're gonna meet a guy named Barack. You're gonna see that he, uh, works for the government and he's a coward. Uh, it's just kind of odd, just kind of an odd observation that the government would have a coward named Barack. Just, I don't mean anything by that. I'm just, just sharing observations from Pastor

Mark's time in the study. She, that is Deborah. It's, and if you're new, it's gonna be like this for about an hour. Okay? And then the band's gonna come back up. Um, she, Deborah sent and summon Barack, the son of Abinoam from Kadesh Neal. And some of you're wondering, did he say it right? I'll just, I say this all the time. I don't know. I went to public school. These are big words, same, fast, same confident. That's, that's my plan. Has not the Lord, the God of Israel commanded you go gather your men at Mount Tabor taking 10,000. So this is gonna be a military fighting unit of 10,000 men from the people of Natal and the people of Zoho. So this would be like tribes within the nation in our day. This would be like having some sort of a military call up or draft from different states to go work together to fight the enemy and deliver the nation. And I will draw out Cicero. He is this ancient warrior, battle hero. He is the Rambo of the Canaanite kingdom, the general of Jain's army. He's the bad guy and the enemy to meet you by the river Kean with his chariots and his troops. And I will give him into your hand. God says, I promise you a victory. 20 years of defeats. And now finally, God promises a victory. Barack said to her, um, he's the cowardly politician. If you'll go with me, this is hilarious. If you will go with me into war. How many of you guys, you're like, honey, I'm going to war. I need you to come with me. I'm a little scared, right? And if that's your guy, send 'em to real men. We'll straighten 'em out real quick. Um, if you, if you will go with me, I will go. Uh, but if you do not go with me, I will not go. And she said, I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory. For the Lord will sell Cicero, the enemy soldier into the hands of a woman. Then Deborah Rose and went with Barak to Kadesh. And Barak called out, uh, Zeum and NAFTA to Kadesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels and Debra went with him. This is setting up the battle. Three major characters, uh, Cicero. He is the military general for the enemy. Uh, he would be like the Houthi or the Hamas or the Hezbollah in our day. He is the invader. He is the enemy. And he is the leader of the resistance. He is a very tough guy. He would be their version of Osama Bin Laden. He's that kind of guy. And so then God raises up annoyance, Deborah. She's unexpected, but she's filled with the spirit. And she's quite amazing. She's anointed. That means she has a particular, uh, grace of God in the Holy Spirit on her. And let me say this, sometimes you don't get the anointing you need until you step out in faith. Usually you don't get your anointing before you step out in faith. She was anointed to be a judge. She was anointed to be a prophetess. She was anointed to be a military strategist. And you'll see in the next chapter, if you come back next week, she's anointed to be a worship leader. She didn't get those anointings before she stepped out in faith. She stepped out in faith, and then she got those anointings. Sometimes what keeps you from your destiny is fear. But if you step out in faith, the anointing will make up the difference between what God has called you to do and what you're capable of doing. That's the story of Deborah. In addition, she is a, she is a bold, courageous, fearless woman. She is an incredibly confident woman in the promises of God. And so she talks to Barack, who is the senior military strategist. It's like they're on the, uh, the president's council or advisory or maybe part of the cabinet. And she's talking to the, the head of the military and she's saying, uh, don't forget God promised a victory. Why are you freaked out? Why are you shaking? God said that you would win. She has tremendous confidence in the promises of God. And she says to the military official Barack quote, has not the Lord commanded you. This is a woman who is very bold. Imagine going to the, the highest ranking military leader, putting your finger in his chest and going, Hey, God said to do this. Get up and do it. She's that kind of woman. She's not rebellious because she's echoing the Lord and she is telling someone who is defying the Lord, what the word of the Lord is for him. And she also says, uh, God promised that he would give our enemies into our hands for her. This is a

concluded battle. I just feel inclined to say this to some of you. Some of you need to know that Satan is already defeated, that demons have already been overcome, that eternity is already open. That team Jesus wins in the end. And some of you live in fear and anxiety, and you need to read the end of the story. That when all is said and done, those who are with Jesus are on the winning team forever and ever. So there's no need for anxiety in the middle. And He, she, she has faith in the promises of God and he is struggling to believe them, but she is not a feminist. Um, let me explain this, uh, to you, feminists. Um, sometimes feminists go to the Bible and especially Deborah, the feminists, uh, they, they love Deborah. They're like Deborah, that's, she's the best one. There was a news story this week and it said that there was actually a, uh, a theological college that teaches the Bible. And there was a woman who was an Old Testament professor, and she was making the argument that the Bible is pro transgenderism because Deborah oversaw a military campaign. It's like, yeah, I didn't see that. Um, so just because she's a military strategist doesn't mean that she's a feminist, right? Had she, uh, went through a surgery and joined the army and went to fight, maybe we could make a case, but we can't. Amen? There's a difference between being a strong woman and an independent woman. Yes. Okay? Two women like that. The rest of you need to hear this. A strong woman is a wonderful gift and blessing if she's strong for the Lord and with her husband. Amen. If you have a woman who is strong but against you, just so you know, ladies, that's exhausting because your whole life is a tug of war. She's pulling one direction, you're pulling the other. It's wonderful to have a strong woman providing she is dependent on the Lord and not independent from her husband. Grace and I both, I'll let you know a little story. Uh, we're both very strong personalities, okay? How many of you, you know that about me? Okay? And Grace is still here 30 some years later, she's been putting up with all of this, which would indicate she's a very strong personality as well. Woo. Okay? And so we're very strong personalities, but we're not independent. 'cause God has called us to be one and to work together. And so we don't wanna be parallel train tracks, we wanna be one. Deborah is not a feminist. She is a godly woman doing exactly what God created, called and anointed and appointed her to be and do. She's got a husband, he was named earlier in this chapter, uh, Lapidoth. And here she's working with a guy named Barack. She is the military strategist, and she sends him to command the troops. So God gives her wisdom. And then Barack leads the military campaign. And importantly, she doesn't go to war with him. Hey, some of you'll wonder, pastor Mark, what's your position on women in combat? Uh, Deborah doesn't go to war, right? Ultimately the men go die for the women and children. I probably shouldn't say this, but I will. Um, when there is danger, I believe it is the duty of good men to get between evil doers and women and children. Amen. I believe that is the place of a man. Amen. That's why God made us wider. We can, we can, we can take more weapon attack and the women and children are protected. That being said, she is a strong personality. How many of you noticed that with her? Maybe you've read a little head. Yes, she's got a spicy personality, sense of humor. She's a little sarcastic. She's got a little zing and she looks at Barack. 'cause Barack's like, okay, I'll go to the fight, but only if you come with me. Which is really a weird request from a, from a soldier, right? Right. From a soldier. And what's interesting in this day, the men are so weak that a man who is this weak is the strongest of all. Wow. A lot of men will look at him and say he is weak. Yeah. But compared to the rest of the guys, he's actually strong. Give our nation 20 more years of this. And you'll be lucky to find a guy who could go to war and win a Nerf gun fight. It's just soft, soft, soft. So Barack is stronger than most men, but the men are so weak that he's not a particularly impressive man. Nonetheless, she kind of mocks him a little bit. She says, this will not lead to your glory. Like when they write the stories of the battle, you're not gonna get the, it's

not gonna be Barack day, right? Right. You're not gonna get the monument at, uh, at Washington. You're not gonna get that. She says, the Lord will sell Cicero into the hand of a woman. Yes. What do you think, ladies? Is she being sassy? Is she spirit-filled. Sassy. Okay. So the point is this, feel free to be sassy, but only if you're spirit-filled. That's the moral of the story. And all the husband said, amen. Amen. Okay, so she's spirit filled, but she is a little sassy. And then there is Barak. He is the military leader. His name means lightning, which is kind of odd 'cause he's a bit of a coward, right? This is, it's kind of like a wrestling name. It's like, this is like, this is like a wrestler. Like, and now we have lightning Barak and his wife, you know, like what? Like why did he bring his wife to the fight? He's that guy. He is a high ranking military official, but he wants a woman to go into battle with him. What do you guys, okay, let's talk to the men ladies, thank you for your participation. Men's turn. How many of you men think it's a little awkward for a guy to take a woman into battle with him after a 20 year failed military campaign? How many of you guys thumbs up. Thumbs down. Thumbs up. How many of you guys think he should take his girl, his friend, his? No. How many of you, if you raise your hand, you're in the wrong church? How many of you guys, uh, you think yeah, it's a bad idea to take a woman into combat with you? Amen. Amen. Okay, he's got 10,000 men. Why does he want, um, why does he want Deborah to go? Well, I think there's two reasons. One, he's a man who struggles with fear and insecurity. God told him you're gonna win. He's like, I don't know. I'm not sure. That's a lot of guys. They have 900 iron chariots. Those are like tanks. I don't know. Deborah, do you want to go? Okay, okay. Okay. True or false, some men who do know the Lord and know the promises of the Lord are still a little passive, a little fearful, a little anxious, a little timid. I asked yes or no. True or false? Yeah, true. A lot of the wives are like, I'd like to answer it, but I think it hurts feelings. Okay. Uh, so he's that guy. He's a little soft. Maybe one of the reasons that, uh, he wants her to go, this is just a speculation on my behalf, is that she has an anointing of the Lord. And maybe if she goes with him and the soldiers, God's presence goes with him like a lucky rabbit's foot. Wow, that could be it. Nonetheless, he invites her to come. Now, what is interesting about this, uh, he knows God's promises and he's still fearful to act on them and trust in them. So as we read Barak, you can read it this way, like, ah, I can't believe that guy. Or you could say, you know what? I'm like that guy. I read the Bible commentators on this, and they tend to make fun of Barak. But these are guys that are writing from libraries that have never been punched in the face. Okay? How, how many of you guys have ever been in a full out fight like you might die, okay? When you've been there, it's a different place. How many of you guys have been into battle? You've had a gun or a knife bull on you? The guys who sit, you know, in libraries and pontificate as they're exploring the Hebrew text, but nobody's ever punched them in the mouth. They don't have a right to, I think, criticize Barak. It is quite a thing to go into war. If you're a man who's seen combat, you know exactly what he's struggling with. Nonetheless, the question would be don't just judge Barak, but ask in the ways that you are like Barak, what are the things that God has told you or promised to you that you have fear, anxiety, or timidity to pursue? We've all got something that for us, we're like, the Bible says it, but I struggle to obey it because I'm timid in action. That's Barak. Nonetheless, God honors this man. It's very interesting. He's mentioned two places outside of the book of Judges. And uh, he is commended each time. And here's the good news, he's not a perfect man, but he is an obedient man. You don't need to be perfect, but you need to be obedience. And sometimes our obedience is a bit imperfect, but God honors his imperfect obedience. First Samuel 12:11, the Lord sent Barak and delivered you out of the hands of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. And then there's a chapter in Hebrews 11 that talks about all kind of the heroes of the faith or the saints

that overcame. And he is listed, it says, time would fail me to tell of Gideon Barack Sampson. Those are the judges, Jeff, the of David and Samuel, and the prophets, who through faith, conquered kingdoms, enforced justice and obtained promise. So that's Barack. Now here what we're looking at is a battle. It's a ancient war. We're gonna get into it in just a moment and look at the details, but it raises the questions, uh, of simply this. How do you know when you, uh, a nation should go go to war? And when a nation shouldn't go to war? See, right now we have wars. We have wars going on all across the world. Every day we hear about war in Israel and war in Ukraine, as well as other places. And as Christians, you can struggle to wonder like, well, how do we know whether this is a just war or an unjust war? And I wanna look at their ancient war, and I wanna compare it to some of our modern wars. Lemme just do this as a verbal process. So where they're at is the nation of Israel. The people who invaded them were the Canaanites, as well as other surrounding nations. Their descendants today are called the Palestinians. They came from a place that today is called the the Gaza Strip. They broke down the border, they invaded the nation, they terrorized the people. They attacked civilians, women and children. So then the army fought back to displace them and send them back to their homeland to secure their border. What's happening in Judges four is exactly what's happening today in Israel and the war in Israel. Same descendants, Jewish people and the Palestinians are descendants of the Canaanites. Same place. Israel and Gaza strip, same thing. Border fails, invaders come in. Same consequence, women and children are killed and taken captive in hostage. So I want to use this ancient, um, case study as a modern example of what someone would called just war. So I wanna look real quickly at what's called just war theory. Uh, number one is it a legitimate authority? Mobs, terrorists, anarchists, uh, are not legitimate authorities in that day when the nation was invaded, it was invaded by illegitimate authorities. There was a nation and then a nation next door had a terrorist invasion that is illegitimate use of force, which means that the response would be illegitimate use of force. Number two, it's defensive, not offensive. In their case, they were living in their land and their enemies invaded today in the modern nation of Israel, they were living in their land and then neighbors invaded. And so now pushing back is defensive. It is not offensive. In addition, number three, is it for a noble cause. If human life is going to be sacrificed, it must be for a cause that is worthwhile. In their day, women and children had been terrorized and tormented and traumatized for 20 years. You're gonna hear this when we get into chapter five. It says that they kept taking the young and old women hostage and then abusing and traumatizing them for 20 years. Similarly, in our day when, uh, Israel was invaded, they took hostages, those who were civilians. And they're still holding many. And it's just horrendous to think what they're doing even right now to women, young and old. And so fighting back is in fact a noble cause. Number four, proportional force. The response must be commensurate to the attacks. In the days of, uh, the ancient nation of Israel, they were invaded by an army that had 900 iron chariots. We read that previously. Those are like tanks. And those who were fighting them did not have iron chariots. So actually the Jewish people, the Israelis, they were not responding with commensurate uh, force. They were actually, uh, underserved in their military capability. But today in Israel, if you are attacked by one group and then you attack with soldiers, that is proportional use of force. In addition, does the mission target, uh, soldiers not civilians. In the ancient war in Israel, the soldiers invaded and they targeted the civilians. They overtook the streets. The people couldn't come and go and they destroyed the economy. They also killed their crops. They were attacking civilians. And so similarly in our day when Israel was invaded, it was trained soldiers and terrorists attacking women, children and those who were elderly, those who were in fact civilians. And so the

response of soldiers fighting soldiers, that is a just war. In addition, more lives must be preserved than taken. If you're going to sacrifice some lives, it must be to save more lives. And so in the days of the ancient war in Israel, uh, it had been 20 years of killing and crippling people in the economy. And so the soldiers are fighting back to prevent, I should say it again, to prevent the further loss of life in our day as well. I would argue for the nation of Israel and their current war, uh, if they do not eradicate the terrorist invaders, then ultimately their nation will be destroyed. I'll get into this when we get into a further study of Gideon next. And I'm gonna read to you, um, the actual charter of Hamas and why this is a demonic spiritual warfare to eradicate Jewish people from the planet. But the entire current invading force that attacked Israel, their charter is that there should be no Jewish state and no Jewish people. Their goal is genocide. So unless you stop them, you're going to eradicate human life for an entire people group. Therefore, it meets the just cause of more lives being preserved than taken. And lastly, is it a last resort? Is it a last resort? And this is where in the ancient world, it was a last resort. They were invaded in the past for 20 years time to fight back in our own day. It is a last resort because if you allow a nation to be attacked, then every nation will attack it. And what makes the current war in Israel so difficult is trained, um, soldiers invaded a nation, attacked women, children and civilians, and then retreated back to their nation. And now they are hiding behind innocent civilians. And sometimes might I add not innocent civilians, those who are harboring terrorism. And so this current war is where those who have no, uh, heed for human life are sacrificing human life in an effort to get international outcry and a call for justice so that they can continue their jihad and eradicate the nation of Israel and the Hebrew people from the earth. And we know that all of this is demonic because when Jesus returns, he returns to Jerusalem and they want to eradicate Jerusalem so that there is no place for the Lord Jesus to return and to begin his kingdom. That being said, what we're seeing here is a just war. And it is the opposite of something called pacifism. Pacifism is this belief that you should never respond with force. There are whole denominations in traditions within Christianity that are pacifists. They will not respond. They won't join the military, they won't do combat. They can't be police officers or first responders. Let me say this, the God of the Bible is for sure not a pacifist. Yes, he is not a pacifist. He attacks and he, uh, destroys entire nations like Sodom and Gomorrah in Egypt. And here he is allowing his people to defend themselves. Furthermore, not only does he command them to war, he joins them in that war. So I just wanna say this because in this house we say thank you to soldiers. We thank you to veterans. We say thank you to current military personnel. We say thank you to police officers and firefighters, and we say thank you to first responders because what you're doing is you're getting in the way between evil and people. And that's a good and godly thing to do. We are not the defund the police people. We are defund the politicians people, but we are not the defund the police people. And so ultimately to too, I was thinking about this uh, some years ago. I was talking to a gentleman, um, he was a complete pacifist theologian, um, you know, where's the turtleneck drinks, herbal tea in touch with his feelings wearing Crocs kind of guy. And so we were talking and I was like, okay, so you're a pacifist, so you don't believe that like there should be any response to violence or aggression. He said, no. I said, well, okay, hypothetically, a bad guy breaks into your house, right? And he is going to assault your wife and harm your kids and he's armed. I said, what do you do? He said, and I quote, pray. I was like, that's great. I'd pray for that guy to go to hell and then I would act. At the end of the day, you can't be especially a man with any dignity, value, or valor. If you can watch women and children get harmed and not get in the middle. Amen. You are not a man. There's something broken in your soul. Amen. And we don't wanna be the guys that start the fight, but if need be, we want to

be the guys that end the fight. Yeah. And that's what's gonna happen here. So this leads to another question. I'm just gonna ran for walks. I'm kind of in the mood. But, uh, so here what you've got, you've got Deborah and Barack, they're working for the government. This raises another question. Should believers be in government and politics? Yes. See, we we're coming up on an election, I dunno if you guys know that. Um, some people are talking about it and there's this stupid narrative that Christians should avoid politics and it's Christians shouldn't be involved in government. Wow. Well that's insane, right? Because we live under the government and we have a right to be involved just like anybody else, right? Ungodly governments in the Bible and in history, they attack God and God's people over and over and over again. Here we see it in judges, godly leaders throughout the Bible serve in godless governments, including Joseph, Obediah, Nehemiah, Daniel, Kings like David and judges like Deborah and Gideon. In addition, today the government is seeking to replace God and overtake every area of life, including the authority of the church. And Jesus is returning as king of kings and Lord of lords. And he will set up a government that never ends. And we will be part of that government. Yeah. And let me just tell you how I feel about it. And I love Barack and Deborah. 'cause they're stepping up saying, you know what? We're gonna use the power of government and politics to do justice, to put down evil and to protect people and to honor God by honoring human life and flourishing. And what they're doing is good. And godly, and I'll just tell you this, the, the founders of our nation, they, they thought in terms of two lanes, church and state. Okay? So I'm pastor, we're in the church lane, and then there's the state lane. The state lane is, Hey, build me a wall on the southern border. Hey, pave the roads. Hey, lower my taxes. Hey, shut up and leave me alone. That's their lane. Okay? Now my lane is, uh, we believe in marriage. So we're gonna define marriage as a man and a woman. We believe in men and women. So we're gonna talk about gender. We believe that children are a blessing from the Lord and they are under the oversight of their parents. And so when the government veers into our lane and sideswipes us, Hey, we want to take our government schools and we want to brainwash your kids and argue with them about pronouns and genitalia and gender. And if you don't like them, we're going to seize custody and we're going to remove your rights. And furthermore, we're gonna need more money to kill more children. And we wanna expand marriage to include people that are not male and female. And we'd like you to fund all of this. And if you disagree, we're gonna sue your business. And we're gonna close your church for covid while we're freaking open with abortion clinics and weed outlets and strip clubs and and alcohol distribution centers. And my thought is stay in your lane or I'm going to need to put you in the ditch. Stay in your lane. This is my life. This is my marriage, this is my church, this is my faith. This, these are my children. This is my destiny. This is my God. This is my freedom. This is my opportunity to tell you to stay in your lane. And when the government decides to tell the church what to do and to close the church, you believe must believe that God's people must get in government to protect the rights of the church and to protect God's people to live according to their conscience. That's right. The older I get, the more worked up I get. I'll be honest, man, some of you're in business and they're, they're forcing all these mandates on you. Contrary to your convictions. Your HR department is literally run by demons. You're spending so much on legal just to, just to keep your business afloat. Yeah. Some of you, some of you need to just get anointed and go into government. Lemme just say this though, if you're not anointed, please don't go into government. We have plenty of those people. Anyways. So judges four 11 through 16. All right, now Hebrew. Now we're into the fight. The Ken Knight has separated from the Ken Knights. It's a tribe and group of people that are by history related to a guy named Moses. Uh, the descendants of Hoba, the father-in-law of Moses,



and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak of xm, which is near Kadesh. When Cera was told that Barak, the son of Abnm, had gone to Mount Tabor. Cera called out to all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron. Here come the ancient tanks. And all of the men who were with him for ha, Sheth, Hakeem to the river Kosham. And Deborah said to Barack, up it's Go, Tai, for this is the day in which the Lord has given Csra into your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you? So Barack went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. And the Lord routed cera, love that. We'll talk about that in a moment. And all his chariots and all his army before Barack by the edge of the sword and cera got down from the chariot and fled away on foot. Now he's running, all the soldiers are dead. The head, uh, commander is running for his life. And Barack pursued the chariots in the army to ha shef hagle. And all the army of cera fell by the edge of the sword. Not a man was left. Come on. Couple of things here. God is patient, but eventually his patient swears out. Yep. Here God waited 20 years. And he is like, you know what? I'm done today. Some of you need to know this. God is being patient with you, but he's not being tolerant of you. Some of you're like, I've been getting away with it for 20 years. Well, this may be your last day. You should turn from sin, trust in the Lord, repent of that and remove that for your life. Amen. There is a day where God's patience wears out and and that day is coming. There is a day for all of human history where the Lord Jesus Christ gets off his throne and says, I'm coming back. I'm sick of this. I'm putting an end to it. In addition, um, God works through anointed leaders. Here he is working through Deborah and Barack. One of the themes that we see throughout the book of Judges is, if there is a bad leader, it's a time of absolute oppression. If it's an anointed leader, it's a time of peace and prosperity. Everything rises and falls with leadership. And is that leadership anointed? And when they would anoint leaders in the Old Testament, they would pour oil on them, symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit. And as the oil would flow down off the anointed leader, it was to ask God the Holy Spirit to flow down on the people. Right? The point is this, men, you need to be the anointed leader in your home so that the anointing of God can flow down on your family. If you're a leader in your business, you need to be the anointed leader so that the grace of God can flow down on the business in this church. Pray for me and your leaders that we would be anointed and living in obedience to God. That the Holy Spirit would be poured out on and through us to bless the people. The problem that we have in our world is not that we don't have leaders, we don't have anointed leaders. They're not living in obedience to God. They're not obeying the word of God. They're not filled with the spirit of God. And as a result, those who are following them are cursed and not blessed. And I love this about, and everything starts and it rises and falls with leadership. The whole nation is the same except for there's Debra. It just shows that one anointed person filled with the Holy Spirit can begin to make an incredible difference. And that, how many of you in reading this, you're wondering maybe like I was when I originally read it, they go off into war and they're fighting 900 iron chariots. You're like, how do a bunch of dudes defeat tanks? Right? The Lord did a miracle. Amen. I'll, I'll give it to you from, uh, judges chapter five. We'll get into it next week. It's a song. But judges five 19 through 20 gives a cosmic perspective on this battle. The kings came, they fought from heaven. The stars fought from their courses. They fought against Cicero. The torrent kean swept away the ancient forest, the torrent of Kisan march on my soul with might then the loud beat of the horse's hooves and the galloping and the galloping of the steeds. What God is saying is this, they went out to battle and they're up against 900 iron chariots. And here's what God says. I took a few stars, I bent 'em, I reset the atmosphere that caused it to rain. It caused a flood. The flood caused the ground to be very soft. All the chariots got stuck. And now you can kill the bad guys. Wow. Come on. Okay, Here's the big idea,

friends. God is in your fight. Amen. God was in their fight and God is in your fight. Yeah. They were fighting for their nation and their freedom. They were fighting for their families and they were fighting for their God and God was in their fight. The point is this, if you are obeying God and doing what is right and you step out in faith, then God is in your fight with you. Some of you are fighting for your marriage. Some of you're fighting for your child. Some of you are fighting for your business. Some of you're fighting for your ministry. Some of you're fighting for your grandchildren and your legacy. And you need to know that if you're on the right side of the fight, God is in your fight. And he shows up in incredible supernatural ways. But they had to overcome tremendous fear. We're going to war against people who by all accounts should destroy us. And they have absolutely devastated us for 20 years. This is like a sports team. You're like, we've been going to battle. We're, we're over 20 years. And then God is like, if you step out in faith, I will be in your fight. I will do something supernatural to deliver you and to destroy them. That is a prophetic word for some of you right now. You have fear because what God is calling you to is much bigger than you are capable of. Yes. But when you step out in faith, if you're obedient to the call of God on your life, don't be surprised when God is in your fight and there's an anointing that comes upon you to complete what he's called you to do. Here's the end of the story. Oh, and I love this too. It says, the Lord routed csra. Ultimately, God showed up and he's the one who defeated their army. This proves that God is not a pacifist. Furthermore, this also proves that if you put your hand to the work, God will join his hand with yours and he will guarantee your success because his name is at stake. Okay, here's the end of the story. Uh, James chapter four, uh, excuse me, judges chapter four, uh, 17 through 24. But c cera fled away on foot. He's the Rambo, the Canaanite world. And he's literally running for his life 'cause he is lost the battle on foot to the tent of jail. The wife of Hebrew, the canine, again, these are descendants of, of Moses, and they tend to be on the outskirts of the nation. So they tend to have more of a favorable relationship with the people group from whom Cera comes from. So he thinks if I go there, maybe they'll take me in. Maybe I'm safe. Maybe they will preserve my life. For there was peace between Jabin, the king of Azar and the house of Hebrew, the Kenai and jail. She's awesome. Jail is awesome, right? If you're not away, yeah, go jail. I mean, I'm talking jail's. Awesome. Okay, we're gonna get to her in a moment. Some of you don't know who she is. You're gonna love her. She's awesome. Here we go. And Jill came out to meet C and said to him, turn aside my Lord, turn aside to me. And do not be afraid. First thing is, man, if any woman, when she meets you says, don't be afraid. Be very afraid. Be very like, sleep with one eye. Open that, that's a black widow right there. You got yourself a situation. She's like, oh, hi. Don't be afraid. Okay? So he turned aside, uh, and to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. So what is he doing? Dude's hiding. He's hiding. Going to the tent soldier. She's like, lay right there. Put the rug over you. Just so you know, that's not a really great strategy. You're like, somebody walks in, they're like, is he here? No. All, all good. Just ignore the rug. We haven't, we haven't had a chance to sort of work it out yet. And he said to her, please give me a little water to drink. I'm thirsty. So she opened a skim of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. So she puts the rug over him. He's hiding. And he said to her, stand at the opening of the tent. And if any man comes and asks, does anyone here say no? He's giving her orders and he's wanting her to defend him. You notice that the men don't look really great in this scene, especially the soldiers. They're not the toughest guys. But Jill, the wife of Heber took a tent. Peg, she's a camping girl. Jill, the wife of Heber, took a tent. Peg took a hammer in her hand. Can you see this? Yes. Then she went softly, right? Total ninja move. She's gonna go get him. He doesn't see it coming. Uh, she went softly to him and drove the tent peg into his temple, into his head until it went into the ground. That is an

aggressive female, that is a very aggressive female. While he was lying fast asleep from the weariness, the funniest verse in the whole book. So he died Like That. Does that know you? Like, I can't imagine they're writing it. And they're like, well, did he die? They're like, you can write it down. Yeah, he died. Like what? Otherwise, it's like some rob zombie apocalypse Halloween situation, like tent peg, you know, like he died. I just think that's funny. This is kind of a gross book of the Bible, by the way, if I might point out the, it's a little dark. It's a little dark. Like no veggie Tales got met of jail, right? Like there's no gals right now at like purity camp. Like, I wanna be jail when I grow up. There's none. You know, what would jail do? There's none of that going on, but it's awesome. Uh, chapter three, they stabbed the fattest man in the Bible and his intestines burst out and he got incontinent. So judges just kind of has this theme of being a little dark, okay? And this is why I like it, I'll be honest with you. And, and I think here's what we've done. We've made Christianity just too soft, right? Like positive, uplifting, safe for the whole family. Nobody gets offended or bowels burst Tempe, you know, like, I mean, And so I, I shouldn't say this, but, so next week what's gonna happen is they sing a worship song and she gets honored and praised on Hebrew radio. She's like, number, she's at the Dove Awards. I just wanna thank, you know, Cicero for his head. You know, like, anyways, so, so he died. And verse 22, and behold, as Barack was pursuing Cice, a jail, went out to meet him and said to him, come, I'll show you the man whom you were seeking. She's like, she's like, I got this. Hold my beer. I got this right? I got this. So he went into the tent and they're lay cice a dead with a tent pa in his temple. Can you imagine being that dude, what happened, babe? Whoa, whoa. Two things. I'm thinking number one, my, this girl's awesome and I'm not gonna make her upset. Those are the two things I'm thinking. I'm not forgetting Valentine's Day with this girl. I see how this goes down. So on that day, God subdued Jaben, the king of Canaan before the people of Israel and the hand of the people of Israel pressed harder and harder against Jaben, the king of Canaan, until they destroyed, uh, Jaben King of Canaan. And so he is fleeing and ultimately God finds him. Uh, lemme say this, if God is for you, who can be against you? Amen. It's a great question in the Bible. In addition, what we see in this scene is that some miracles happen in an instant, and other miracles happen over time, right? See, for this miracle to occur, they needed to go to war, defeat the enemy, and then pursue Cicero, and then ultimately jail needed to kill him. It took some time. Some of you, you only think that miracles occur in an instant, and sometimes they happen over time. Yeah. Some of you right now, you're in the middle of your miracle and you don't know it because it just hasn't finished yet. And that's what's happening here. Uh, and lastly, the battle belongs to the Lord. Uh, here you've got, uh, an invading army that is ruled for 20 years defeated by a smaller force of less trained soldiers. You have chariots defeated by people who have less weaponry. Uh, furthermore, you have a woman who is the female strategist, defeating one of the greatest armies in the region through her battle plan. And furthermore, you've got the woman jailed, defeating the great soldier Cicero, and you've got a, a little Jewish gal killing a big Canaanite guy. The battle belongs to the Lord. Amen. And the point is this, sometimes we get into life and conflict and obstacles and we think, well, that's just too big for me. It is. That's why he's in your fight. And it's not too big for him. Amen. And so ultimately, I wanna pull out one theme and then I, I wanna, I don't know, I might talk some more. I don't know. Um, but what one theme that we're seeing in this section of judges is various hands at work. I'll show this to you, so just throw it up on the screen. Judges four, two. The Lord sold him into the hand of Jabon, king of Canaan, uh, judges four seven. Deborah says, I will draw out Cice a, the general of Jayden's army, and I will give him into your hand. Uh, judges four, nine. The Lord will sell Cice A into the hand of a woman. Deborah jail, the wife of Bert took a tent peg and took a hammer in her

hand. And then the section concludes, judges 4 24, the hand of the people of Israel pressed harder and harder against Jabin, the king of Israel. Here's what you need to know. Everybody's got their hand and over it all is God's hand. Yes, that's the big idea. And this is what theologians or Bible teachers will talk about, is human responsibility and divine sovereignty, that people make their decisions and they are responsible for their decisions, but over their hand is God's hand. And you need to know that every decision that you make is under God's hand. Every conflict you have is under God's hand, and every circumstance in your life is under God's hand. And you may look at people and say, I can't believe that they did this. I can't believe they betrayed me. I can't believe that they came against me. I can't believe that they attacked me. Don't worry my friend. His hand is over their hand and his hand will deliver and vindicate you from their hand. And that's what's going on here. Um, I'm gonna skip the next section. Um, or not, I don't know. Do you? So, um, I mean this is on the internet, so this shouldn't happen. But, um, I mean, unless I got kicked off, you know, um, do you want to talk about killing versus murder or just go right to the end? I don't, I get paid the same either way. I don't really care. So I just ask. Yeah. So how many of you wanna talk about killing versus murder? Yeah. Okay. How many of you wanna go right to the end? Oh, one guy. All right. Forgive you. I forgive you. Okay, so, so, um, so, so here what you've got, you've got an army, dude's like, I'm done. I love you Barack. Stick with me. Okay, so here we go. So that shouldn't have happened. Um, when Grace is laughing, I know I'm over the line. So, um, so what happens is the army goes to battle and they kill a bunch of bad guys, right? Can you see, and this is with a sword, just so you guys know, there's difference between shooting a guy at a distance and stabbing a guy, looking him in the eye. I mean, this is bloody and gory. This is, guys are gonna have PTSD and injuries and, and this is going to be lifelong trauma for these men. And they kill a lot of men in hand to hand combat. And then you've got jail. She takes a tent, peg takes care of C. And the question is, was that okay? Yes. Was that, was that, was that good or bad? Okay, you're here. I mean, if you were at a SC, you'd be like, oh, but you're here. Okay, so and so it raises this question, uh, it raises this question like, is it okay sometimes to take people's lives? What do you think? Somebody like, yeah, I got a list. Got a list. So there's a big debate as whether or not it's okay or godly to end human life. Yeah. And so here's the big I, here's the question. What is the difference between killing and murder? Yeah. And the big debate is this. There are 10 commandments and one of them is about taking human life, right? And some translations, Exodus 20:13 translated, you shall not murder, right? Other translations. And what we're talking about here is the Old Testament in that section was originally written in the ancient language of Hebrew. We translated into the modern language of English. Well, as we're reading into the English, what would be the best word, other translations translate. Exodus chapter 20, verse 13, as you shall not kill question, is there a difference between killing and murdering? Big difference. Killing could be the taking of a guilty life. Murder is the taking of an innocent life. In both instances, a life is taken, but one is just, and one is unjust. I'll explain it to you. There's at least eight words in the Old Testament about ending human life. And killing is the justifiable taking of a human life. A soldier's at war, they fired him, he returns, fire justifiable. Okay, that's killing not murder. In addition, uh, a police officer walks into a deadly situation. And let's say there's an active shooter and he takes the shooter down. He's not murdering, he's killing, that's justifiable. In addition, someone breaks into your home and is seeking to kill you. Or you are a young woman who attends our church and open carries in Arizona and a man is trying to sexually assault you. And so you stop him. That is not murder, that is killing. And you're not gonna stand before Jesus and have him say that what you did was wrong because you were stopping what they were doing and that was wrong. It

is not wrong to stop wrong. It is right to stop. Wrong murder. Conversely is the sinful or unjustifiable taking of human life. It's unauthorized killing. This would be manslaughter. You're just angry at someone so you kill them without cause. This would be, for example, just an act of terrorism where you're just literally ending the life of total strangers that you don't know and are civilians. And this would include the killing of an unborn child. We call it abortion. That's murder. So what we're seeing here is there is a sanctity to human life, but some people are so devoted to doing evil that other people need to get in the middle and stop them. And it's not evil to stop evil because evil will never stop itself. Now I will conclude here. This is a little story in judges and it's part of the big story of the Bible. And when we go to the little stories in the Bible, we need to connect it to the big story. And the big story of the Bible is this, that we live in a world that has been invaded by Satan and demons. Yes. That they are terrorizing people and they are traumatizing generations. That they are causing unspeakable evil in every element and area of culture. Furthermore, as they were oppressed, we have been oppressed now for thousands of years. And just as God raised up Deborah, he sent his only son Jesus Christ, and he raised him up to be our judge. You need to know this. We'll all stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and given account for our life as our judge, as Deborah was a prophetess. So Jesus Christ is the veritable word of God, and he is what God has to say to you and me and all of history. Furthermore, as she was a warrior and military strategist, Jesus Christ is coming back and he is gonna put an end to Satan and demons and evil doers. And there will be one final war. And the Lord will deliver into his hand ultimate victory forever. And as you're gonna see next week, if you come back, Deborah is a worshiper of God and she is a worship leader for God's people. So Jesus Christ does live as the worshiper of the Father by the power of the Spirit, and he will lead us in worship together forever. What we see in Deborah is a little picture of Jesus who is the greater Deborah. And I just want to tell you this friend, some of you don't know that Jesus is both lion and lamb. Yes. Some of you see Jesus only and always is lamb. So when you see God killing evil doers or declaring war or putting down enemies, you think, surely that cannot be my Jesus. It is. Jesus came the first time as a lamb. He's coming the second time as a lion. This is what the Bible says. He came the first time to shed his blood. He's coming again to shed their blood. He came the first time in humility. He's coming again in glory. He came the first time to live under a government. He's coming a second time to set up a government that will never end. And so I just wanna read for you a little bit about Jesus' lion and lamb. And you need to know this friend. If you belong to Jesus, you're gonna go to heaven. You're gonna be under his kingdom rule and he is the king or prince of peace. Yes, there will be no enemies in the camp. There will be no wars to fight. There will be no deaths to mourn. Instead, Jesus will rule in reign. And if you belong to Jesus, all you'll know him as forever is lamb. Yes. But if you don't know Jesus, all you'll know him as forever is lying that he will rule and reign and judge that He will ultimately have you experiencing perfect justice and consequence for your rebellion and disobedience forever. Now the difference is Jesus is so good, he went to the cross and he died in our place for our sins, that ultimately he endured the wrath of God so we could receive the grace of God. And if you don't know what the point of the story it is this, that you and I are Cicero, that you and I are the Canaanites, that you and I are the terrorists, that you and I are the invaders. And that we need to be forgiven and we need to join Jesus and his work to stop evil and bring good to this world. I'll just close with this and then we're gonna worship and the band can come out and I don't care if you're in the shot and I'm just gonna read the scripture and we're gonna give the word of God the final word, and we'll release the live stream and we're gonna meet with God together. Revelation 19, 10 through 16 says, worship God. That's What we're gonna do right now because the testimony about Jesus is the

spirit of prophecy. Then I saw heaven open and there was a white horse. Its rider is called faithful and true, and he judges and makes war in righteousness. His eyes were like a fiery flame and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. He wore a robe stained with blood and his name is the word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from his mouth so that he might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will trample the wine press of the fierce anger of God the Almighty, and he has a name on his robe and on his thigh, king of Kings and Lord of Lords.