



THE DEBORAH ANOINTING

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Everyone, everyone, everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Everyone always and only did what was right in their own eyes. This was the days of judges. The scripture says everyone did what was right in his own eyes. What that means is no one did what was right in the eyes of God. An entire culture, an entire nation was living in open, defiant, continual rebellion against God. To be sure, they would've said things like, I'm just being true to myself. I'm honoring my truth. I'm being consistent with my feelings. I'm a good person. We have good hearts. No one can judge us and you just need to be true and you need to do you. This was a nation that was in utter collapse. They did not do what was right in God's eyes, and as a result, they reap what they sow in consequence. Tell me if this doesn't sound familiar. Open borders, anarchy in the streets, pornographic, disturbing, cultural decline, weak leadership, debt, governmental corruption, sexual anarchy, a nation in a free fall, a culture that is demonic and a woke progressive compromised weak apostate church. That's part of the problem. Wow. Some of you think I'm talking about America and I am, But I'm talking about Israel. What we're going to look at is the Old Testament book of judges. It reports history. 3000 years ago, they were in the exact same place that we find ourself. Here we are on the threshold of a brand new year. By all accounts, this looks like it is going to be a very painful, a very complicated year. It also looks like no matter how the year ends, we will have a divided nation, a divided church, and some form of unrest in the streets. That is not what I hope for, but that is what we anticipate. Thankfully, God's word tells us not just what happened, but what always happens and what we're gonna do in the book of Judges. We're gonna look not just at the scriptures, but through the scriptures to our own day and find how to navigate our lives in a very similar series of circumstances. That being said, only two times in the book of Judges do we see the people asking the Lord what he wants. As we begin this year, might I submit to you? Ask the Lord what he wants. Don't just do what's right in your eyes, find his will and look at your life through his eyes. Judges covers 300 years of human history. Every generation gets a little darker and things get a little blecker on Only two occasions do they ask God what they should do. The first chapter and the second to the last chapter, I'll read them to you. After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel, inquired of the Lord. And then some roughly 300 years later, the people of Israel, a Rosen, went up to Bethel and inquired of, God, might I just suggest to you, for you, for your life, for your family, be seeking God's will more than once every 300 years. And you might ask, well, if they weren't seeking God's will and they were only doing what was right in their eyes, not in God's eyes, what were they doing for these 300 years? We'll, read it. I've summarized the book of judges for you. We'll read it together. The people did what was evil. Our culture doesn't even believe in that category. We would just call this, uh, a different lifestyle. The people did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and they served the Baals. We'll talk about that. They abandoned the Lord. They went after other gods. Those are demons. They provoked the Lord to anger. Uh, they abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Astra. We'll talk about that as well. So the anger of the Lord was Kindled, and he gave them over to Plunderers who plundered them. There's consequences. They're reaping what they're sowing. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies. And the hand of the Lord was against them for harm. They picked a fight with God and he was gonna fight back. They were in terrible distress. The people did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God, and they served the Baals and the Astra, the anger of the Lord was kindled and he sold him into the hand of the King of Mesopotamia. For eight years, the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. And the Lord strengthened the king of Moab because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord and when and defeated Israel and the people served the king of Moab, 18 years,

that's slavery. And the people of Israel again did what was evil and the sight of the Lord. And the Lord sold them into the hands of Jaben, king of Canaan, and he oppressed the people cruelly. For 20 years, the people did what was evil in the side of the Lord and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian. Seven years the people again did what was evil on the side of the Lord and served the Baals and the astro, the gods or demons of Syria, and they forsook the Lord and did not serve him. So the anger of the Lord was kindled and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel for 18 years. They oppressed all the people and the people again did what was evil on the side of the Lord. So the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines for 40 years. I would presume at this point there was a lot of social justice talk, how they were all victims and how uh, they had suffered things that they did not deserve and they were entitled to some form of reparation and compensation for all of their suffering. I would assume as well that in college you could get a degree in victimhood. I'm assuming they had rainbow flags that were being hung on their chariots. I'm also assuming they opened lots of chapters of Canaanite Lives Matter and, and I would assume that if anyone opposed them, they were just dismissed as being a white Hebrew nationalist. I think that is exactly what was happening in the days of the judges. Can I get an amen? And we're gonna have a little fun. By the way, these people are not victims. They're villains. They did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord. They only did what was right in their sights. So God does not bless them. God does not bless disobedience and sin and fall in rebellion. Like any good parent, he allows discipline and consequence for correction. If he were to put his hand to blessing on those who are rebelling, he would be participating in evil in sin. So what we're gonna do now is we begin our study of the book of Judges. I wanna teach you the difference between history and prophetic history. History is what we study in school and it's looking at the scene realm of the physical world and the natural. And so it's about people, times, places, ideas and events. Prophetic history goes a level deeper. It looks not just at the physical world, but the spiritual world behind it. Not just the seen realm, but the unseen realm. Not just the people in places but the powers, principalities and spirits at work behind those people in places. This is where the Bible gives us the view and interpretation of history and reality from the perspective of God. And the background here is spiritual warfare. That is the backdrop of judges and our own day. And the backdrop in the storyline of the Bible is this, that God is without beginning a end, that God is not created. He is create, that God is eternal and he made us in the physical world, he also made divine beings in the spiritual world. They were angels to be God's messengers and ministers. Revelation 12, seven through nine says that war erupted in heaven, that some of these angels, these divine supernatural spiritual beings, they declared war on God. They were led by, uh, a, an angel we now know as Satan. And there was this battle in the heavenly realm. The Bible says, well, Jesus says that they lost and a third of the heavenly hosts were cast down. They came into human history. Now, those same demonic forces that declared war on God in heaven are declaring war throughout the world on the earth. That being said, sometimes these spirit beings, they work through physical objects. The Bible refers to this as idols. Idols don't have any power except for when a demon works through them. In our day, demons still work through things like social media, platforms like algorithms, and like artificial intelligence. It's a, it's a particularly skillful way to spread lies most efficiently. And so the spirits are working through people and things. As you read the book of Judges, and we're not gonna deal with the whole book, but we're gonna look at three judges. We're gonna look at Deborah, then Gideon, then Samson. But as you read judges, and I would encourage you to do so, you will hear of the Gods or God, uh, 24 times in reference to demons. And that word in the original, uh,

old Testament language of Hebrew, it's Elohim. Elohim means a citizen of the unseen realm. It's a spirit being this can be an angel, this can be a demon, this can be God. But on 24 occasions, the Bible keeps telling us there were these kings and kingdoms that were invading and attacking and working in and through them were these demons. This is the prophetic nature of the Bible's understanding and revelation of history. It's not just people, but it is power's, principalities, and spirits working through people. And as we get into this, you'll need to see that when God creates Satan counterfeits, that God creates angels and then Satan counterfeits them as demons, that God is going to work through the Holy Spirit and Satan is going to oppose that work through unholy spirits. And when it comes to the angelic and also the demonic realm, you need to think in terms of military. There is rank and authority. There are those who are in authority and those who are under authority. In the angelic realm, for example, there are two high-ranking angels that we know the names of. There are only two angels in the Bible, holy angels that are named Michael and Gabriel. All other angels are anonymous and unnamed. Similarly, most of the demons in the Bible, uh, they are unnamed, but a few are named. We just read two of them, Baal and Astra. We're gonna talk about those demons in great detail today so that you can understand the remainder of the backdrop and the prophetic history behind the book of Judges. And so these high ranking, um, angelic beings, they are referred to as Baal and Astra. Now, Baal appears as male, Astra appears as female. But ultimately, when all is said and done, take a deep breath. I will too. God made us human beings with an anatomical physical body as male and female. We are binary with sex, gender, and sexuality determined by God. Demons and angelic beings, they are also created by God, but they do not inhabit a physical body. They are spiritual, not physical. That means that a divine being in this case a demon is non-binary. They can appear as male or female. They are transgender and operate on a gender spectrum. What you're going to see in judges is what we're also seeing in our culture, that God made us in his image and likeness. Male and female and demons want to convert us to worship them by being non-binary, transgender, and on a fluid spectrum of sex, gender, and sexuality. The entire force in our culture, I'm telling you is Baal and Astra trying to pull people to be like demons, not like God made them. That's why there's such a powerful force at work in our culture. It is now recruiting and evangelizing entire generations at the youngest possible age to have confusion and then to have sexual confusion that leads to lots of trauma and devastation. This is exactly the backdrop and I'll explain it in greater detail in a moment. For Baal and Astra and the demonic work that is occurring in the book of judges and constantly seducing God's people, it's very simple. You can be like God made you or like the demons want to remake you. Yes, your genitalia and your gender is spiritual warfare and it's either going to represent how God made you or how demons want to remake you like them. So let me deal with these two named demons. Uh, the first is Baal and the second is astral. We'll speak of them throughout the sermon series, but let me just get you introduced to them in Deuteronomy seven and 12. Lemme give you the backdrop of judges by the way. Um, so there was a man named Abraham. God spoke to him, said, leave your mother and father, I'm gonna give you a land. Uh, I'm gonna give you a son. Your son will lead to a nation that's the nation of Israel in the promised land. They live there, it belongs to them. Then there was a famine. So in the days of a man named Joseph, at the end of the book of Genesis, God's people go to Egypt, um, for a time so that they can survive the famine. This lasts over 400 years. Eventually God's people are enslaved by a demonic, horrific, uh, counterfeit of Jesus Christ named Pharaoh. God then deliver his people cry out to him, and God hears and answers their cry in their prayer. And so he raises up a deliverer named Moses who is a judge. He's literally a judge. He's the beginning of the judges. And then he does supernatural signs and

wonders to deliver God's people into freedom. For 40 years, they're wandering around the wilderness, sinning, complaining, rebelling, and God's trying to teach them to trust him, but they keep resisting him. Eventually that generation dies in the wilderness on the threshold of the promised land, and it is the next generation led by Joshua who brings them into the promised land. Now, the problem is they've not been there for over 400 years. So that land is now occupied by their enemies and their adversaries. The Canaanites, the Amorites, you're gonna read about all the ees. The ees are all the bad guys in the book of Judges. And so what God tells them in Deuteronomy, particularly in chapter seven and chapter 12, when you get there, either displace everyone or destroy everyone. These people are evil and demonic. They are the counterfeit of being filled with the spirit. They're filled with Satan. They either need to leave or they need to leave this world. This is prophesied repeatedly by God in Deuteronomy. I've got all of this by the way in the study guide if you wanna look it up for yourself. What happens is they enter into the promised land, but they don't do what God said. They let all the enemies stay there. They let all the demonic counterfeit religions continue to exist. They allowed all the cultural corruption and the sexual perversion to continue. And rather than displacing or destroying their enemies, they enslaved them. They used them for profit and gain. And what what this allowed was the worship of this demon God, Baal, which was a chief, uh, canaanite deity to continue to be worshiped in Israel. Baal is the anti-God. When the people of God turn from God, they turn to Baal. And Baal, um, is literally the highest ranking demon in the unseen realm. He works directly for Satan himself. His name is referred to as master or Lord or owner. When demons are named, he is almost always named first because he is of highest rank. As you read judges, you're going to see continually that when the people turn from God, they turn to Baal. In addition, you will hear of the Baals, plural. The Baals are other demons that work under Baal. We don't know their name, but they have what would be the equivalent of a family name. The bales would be a family of demons that are working together just like your family and my family. We have a last name and that speaks of everyone who's a member of that extended family. Those are the bales. They're all the lesser lower ranking demons. In addition, as you read judges, you will hear the word bail and then a place, it'll be a city or a town or a geographic region. And that means that there is a bail that has jurisdiction and territorial authority over that place. And those people, these demons still exist today. So there is a bale Seattle, there is a ba San Francisco, there is a bale, Washington dc there is a bale. Chicago there is for sure, uh, a ba phoenix. There there is a London. And if you wanna know why it's so hard in Philadelphia, uh, because there's a Baal Philadelphia, and this is why, just let me verbal process for a moment. This is why you can get new political leadership, but if you don't get new spiritual leadership, nothing changes in the culture. This is why when we put our hope in elections, we're being naive because if a demon is working through one person and we replace them and the demon works through the next person, we have changed people but not demons. We've made no progress. And there are places that have oppression and there is a demonic spirit that has jurisdictional territorial authority and it imposes a culture on people. That's why certain places, right? Why is, why is that a, why is that a place that is so perverted? Why is that a place that is so addicted? Why is that a place that has so much mental health? Why is that place so dangerous and violent? There is a spirit. There is a spirit that has been tolerated and as a result has dominated those people. Furthermore, um, Baal is the god of prosperity and fertility and wealth and comfort and pleasure and success. You would worship Baal if you wanted to succeed and be affluent and live a lavish lifestyle. Baal is typified as a bull. Another word for Baal is bull. And when God's people, perhaps the most famous Baal in the Bible is in the book of Exodus, God delivered his people. They got together and they created a golden calf

and they worshiped it. A calf is a baby bull. They were worshiping Baal. And see what happens is we read the Bible and we think those people are primitive. Thankfully we've moved beyond that sort of primitive thinking. Thankfully, we don't worship a Baal or bull. Yes we do. This is right next to the New York Stock Exchange. If, if we were Hebrews from the Old Testament, we would say, well, there's Baal, the golden bull, and we worship him because we want a bull or Baal market. A bull or Baal market is a thriving market. What I'm telling you is this. We're dealing with new days, but old demons, I've said this for a long time, that when you see the same thing happening from one culture to the next and one generation to the next and one nation to the next, if the people change and things don't, that means that the spirit working through them is the same. In addition to Baal, there is mention of Asra. Her name is spelled a few different ways in the scriptures outside of the Bible. This demon is also referred to as Ishtar and Venus. This she is called quote the queen of the demons. So Baal would be the king and Astra would be the queen. They are lovers and they are co-conspirators. They're the Bonnie and Clyde of the unseen realm. She is the goddess of four things. Number one, the tavern and alcohol. She works through intoxication and seduction. She was worshiped at the bars and pubs. And this still exists in our culture. When you see people who are over drinking so that they then can be physically, sexually sinning, you know that ASRA is the uh, she is the matchmaker in the relationship. And what happens is this is where people will even talk about alcohol is liquid courage. It allows you to do things that normally your conscience would inhibit and prohibit you from doing. But what you do when you over drink is this, you welcome spirits instead of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings control. Self-control. The unholy spirits bring a lack of control and you're out of control. And so she is worshiped as the goddess of addiction. Today, she would be the demonic spirited work for the decriminalization and legalization of drugs. And the way that Astra works with addiction, alcohol, drugs is simply this. A little bit of pleasure to lead to a lot of pain. All of a sudden you enjoy something and then over time you become addicted to it and you can't survive without it, but it is killing you. That is the spirit of ASRA at work. The increase in legalization, decriminalization and addiction is the work of ASRA in our culture. Number two, she is the demon goddess of prostitution. With Astra sex went from a private matter to a public matter. And with Astra sexual sin went from something that was rejected to something that was celebrated. She is the demon goddess of pride and tolerance and gender confusion and sexual experimentation. She is the goddess of prostitution. Among the oldest writings we have in the history of the world are quote, sacred hymns to Asra and she is called a prostitute. They literally sang songs to her. And let me just say this, if you listen to songs today that are highly suggestive, very sexual and very erotic, those are worship hymns to asra. In addition, what I would say is today on social media, ASRA, this ancient demon goddess has found a new home. She is encouraging entire generations, particularly of women to be underdressed, to be sexualized, to be objectified, and to be prostitutes on social media. Make no mistake, Astra has found her way onto the social media platforms. In addition, not only is Astra the goddess of alcohol and addiction and prostitution, but of transgenderism also called Venus. Astra is referred to as both the morning star and the evening star. She covers the entire spectrum. In addition, she is known for being the goddess of love and war, the entire spectrum. In addition, the demon is non-binary, but oftentimes appears effeminate. When you see men acting like women, when you see men dressing like women, you know that they are working with Astra. When you see people who slide on a spectrum sexually and physically, you know that Astra has influenced them. Astra now has a job at every major university. Astra now has a job in every educational system. Astra is running social media platforms. She is creating entertainment for children and indoctrinating and

confusing younger and younger generations and sexualizing them as early as possible. And if you're a parent and you have the Holy Spirit, you sense this, you're like, it feels like the whole world is lost. Its mind and everything is going south at the same time. Yes, because this is a spiritual war. There is an ancient Mesopotamia tablet that speaks of astro quoted for you. It says this, when I Astra sit in the Ale house, so again, intoxication and seduction, ancient Mesopotamian tablet, when I asked her to sit in the ale house, I am a woman and I am an exuberant young man. Astra is the spirit of intoxication and seduction, male and female. Number four, Astra is the demon goddess of pornography. The entire goal of the demon Astra is to push lines of propriety until there are no lines left. And so hear me in this. When those on the progressive left say, well, we just need to redefine gender and sexuality and marriage. Just know that they will continually move the line until there are no lines left. Polygamy coming age of consent is also coming because our culture doesn't accept any boundaries or limitations when it comes to sexuality. That's Astra. In addition, uh, the word erotic means desire. The Greek word arrows refers to a demon God of sexual desire. In ancient Greek mythology, arrows was born of Aphrodite. Aphrodite is the Greek name for Asra erotica. And the porn industry was created and is led by a demon named Eros working under the higher ranking demon named Asra. This is why some of you struggle so mightily with pornography and your thought life and purity. Some of you, it's not just physical though it is, it's spiritual. It's like something has taken hold of your soul and won't let go. That's why you need to pray for purity. You need to pray repentance, and you need to ask the Lord to break that tie once and for all. True or false. Our whole culture is run by Canaanites. They're run by Canaanites. In addition, ancient artwork depicting Astra is always lewd, pornographic, very vulgar. She's usually wearing jewelry and she's presented as a beautiful goddess that is very seductive. The ancient artwork and the tablets and the poems and the songs, they are incredibly graphic in the history of the world. The most likely place that the porn industry began was thousands of years ago with devotion to asra. And what we're dealing with today are new days, but old demons. So here's how it would work. Another layer of insight. God's people got the promised land, but they didn't remove all the idolatry and the demon worship and the bad culture and the corruption and the perversion. Let me just say this. If you tolerate, evil will dominate. This is where tolerance is actually a great sin and offense against God. The way it would work in their day. They had these counterfeits of the church. Again, what God creates Satan counterfeits in these counterfeits of the church, they would worship Baal and Astra as well as other demon gods like Osh. That was the chief god of the Ammonites. And that demon is mentioned two dozen times in the book of judges as well. So there are other demons, but they would put their, um, their counterfeit churches up on high places so you could see them. So if you live in town, you could see up on the hill there is the counterfeit of the church for advertising. They had a large pole. It was called an Asher Poll. It was a male anatomical symbol to tell everyone what was happening there. It was very graphic. And God's people in those days living in one and two story homes. Well, if you see a big building on a hill with a big monument sign, you know exactly what is happening there. Those places were a combination of bar where there was alcohol concert venue, where there was live music, strip club, brothel and abortion clinic all under one roof. And what would happen is people would go there and they would worship Baal and Astra and Baal and Astra had this very vulgar, crass, dark sexual relationship with no boundaries. And then the demons would show up with the people. They would have a little bit of alcohol, they'd be filled with spirits, not with the Holy Spirit. They would do unspeakable, deplorable things while the band played. It's like old town at about 10, okay? And if you didn't laugh, it's 'cause you were planning on going, don't go. And what would happen

then is if you got pregnant and had a child and you didn't want that child because that child got in the way of your worship, of Baal, your career and your degree and your success, and that child got in the way of your worship, of Astra freedom to just live, live a life of debauchery, then what you would do, you would take your child to this counterfeit church. You would hand that child to a counterfeit pastor called a priest, a priest for Baal and Asher and Osh. And then they would sacrifice your child. They would sacrifice your child. And this is a counterfeit of the gospel of Jesus Christ. God doesn't take our son, God gave his son, God gave his son. So we don't give our children. So over and over and over in the Old Testament, God is telling his people, don't worship with them. Don't sleep with them. Don't do demonic things with them. Don't drink with them. Don't ous with them. Pray for them, reach them, but don't let them convert you and don't give your children as sacrifices to their demon Gods. Two ways that then the child would be killed. Number one, uh, there would be a physical process where the child was destroyed. Number two, there would be a me. There would be rather a, a chemical process where they would end the life, uh, through fire. They would burn the child. This is exactly what's going on today. I'm trying not to get kicked off social media. So I'm trying to still do the livestream may maybe too late. Um, but what happens today is if you want to end life, you have two choices, physical or chemical. And the band would play very, very loud so that you couldn't hear the cries and the screams, I'll read this to you, there's an ancient philosopher named plu tar. He describes it the whole area before this statue. In context, it's of mooch. The amite demon, God mentioned 26 times in judges, was filled with loud noises of flutes and drums so that the cries of the wailing should not reach the ears of the people. Everyone is drinking and dancing and everyone is carousing. And as the life is terminated, the band gets louder so that people don't have to hear it. The same thing happens at certain rallies where people in the streets are chanting. They're just just drowning out the corruption and the destruction. Lemme tell you, friends, we're living in the days of the judges we're living in the days of the judges. And what these were, these were worship events to mosh. Everybody got together and the band played and the people sang the songs to celebrate the end of the life. The Holy Spirit reminds me, there's a, there's a line in Proverbs. God says, all who hate all, who hate me, love death, all who hate me, love death. If you love God, you love life. If you hate God, you love death. Uh, 2023, global causes of death. 1 million self-inflicted, 1.3 million tra traffic accidents, 1.6 million HIV aids 4.9 million, smoking, 8.2 cancer, 12.9 infectious diseases total roughly 30 million. Um, 44 million. 44 million. The reason we have to put that little asterisk is they'll, they'll kick my Bible teaching off the internet because it's offensive. Well, lemme just say this. If God's offended, then that should be the issue. Amen. We live in a world that constantly offends God and it's as if we consider everyone but God. It, it's, it's, it's like everyone's doing what's right in their own eyes. Oh, that's exactly what they're doing. In addition to all of this 300 years of this decline in corruption, God raises up a series of leaders called judges. We'll deal with Deborah next week and you can read ahead in judges chapter four. Um, Deborah is an incredible woman. Yes, she's an amazing woman of God. She has, uh, four different giftings, anointings and offices. She's a prophetess. Judges four, four calls. Debra quote, A prophetess, a prophet has two jobs. Listen and communicate. God says something and then you say it to others. This can be a speaking prophet or a writing prophet. And the point is this, demonic days need prophetic people. Demonic days need prophetic people. So God raises up Debra because all it is is lies. And then God needs someone to tell the truth. Everyone's looking through their eyes and God wants them to start looking through his eyes. Number two, Deborah is also a judge. Judges four, four, and five. Deborah was judging Israel and the people of Israel came to her for judgment. What, what she's doing is she's saying, that's

right, that's wrong. That's truth. That lies, that's God. That's Satan. If you can't do this, you can't survive life in this world. And you cannot be a faithful Christian. Our world is kaza. You can't judge me. Sure I can. Uh, that's wrong. That's a lie. That's evil. I love you. I don't determine your eternal fate. But we have the right to say that certain things are right and wrong. That certain things are truth and lies. That certain things are acceptable and unacceptable to God. That certain things are done by the power of the Holy Spirit and other things are done by the power of demonic spirits. Somebody has got to judge. And so God raises up a judge. Number three, she's a military strategist. Uh, judges four, 14 and 15. Deborah said, this is her battle plan up for this is the day in which the Lord has given CSS into your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you? And the Lord routed Cicero and all his chariots and all his army, she's a military strategist. She doesn't herself go into battle, but God gives her battle plans. She works through another man. You'll meet him next week. And he is the one who leads the military, but she is the military strategist. Uh, in addition, she is a worship leader. Judges chapter five, one and three. Then saying, Deborah to the Lord, she said, I will sing. I will make melody to the Lord. She's an anointed spirit-filled worship leader. When we get to her song, you're gonna love it. There's another chick that drives a tent peg through a dude's head, right? They didn't make a veggie tail about it, but it's awesome. And then when Deborah writes a song, she writes a song praising her for doing such a good job driving the tent peg through the dude's head. It's not positive, uplifting, and safe for the whole family, but it's awesome. Okay? It's awesome. She's she. So you think of it like salsa, like so like there's mild and medium and spicy. Deborah. Spicy, she's very spicy. We like her. So in our world there's not, there are clear differentiations between like for say, political leadership, military leadership, uh, legal judges, religious leaders In that day, judges had multiple roles and responsibilities. And that's de Now lemme say one thing that's offensive, you know, 'cause it's time. Uh, we've waited this long. Uh, many would go to Deborah and say she is the greatest argument for a woman to be a senior pastor in the Bible. She's actually the greatest argument in the Bible. For a woman not to be a senior pastor, I put it in the study guide. If you wanna be offended, there's pages for you to read. But here's how it works. In the Old Testament, the equivalent of the church, um, was the, the local synagogue. In addition, the corollary of the senior pastor was called the priest. If God wanted her to be the equivalent of a senior pastor, he would've also made her a priest. And he didn't. In fact, God made zero women in the Old Testament priests, all the religious senior leaders in the local congregation of God's people are all men. They're all descendants of Aaron. It's the Levitical priesthood only available to the men. Now, it doesn't mean that women didn't do ministry. They do. It doesn't mean they don't lead. Deborah leads and she leads ministry by leading worship. So we're not talking about leadership. She is a leader. One of the greatest leaders in the history of the world. We're talking about senior leadership, not in the government, but in the church. In addition, just tangentially, there's only one king in the nation of Israel in its entire history. That is a woman. It was Jezebel's daughter Olathe. She murdered all the men and took the throne. She was demonic. So Deborah is an anointed spirit-filled, tremendous leader, godly woman. I'll just say it this way. If she was going to be positioned on our Supreme Court, I would be so excited if she was added to the presidential cabinet, I would be overjoyed. If she was running for governor, I would support her enthusiastically. If she was running for president, I would vote for her. Don't know if my vote would count, but I would vote for her. In addition, if she was leading worship and on tour and gave me a call, I would absolutely gladly give her the mic and let her lead us in worship. She's an incredible woman. Now, now I want to tell you what I really want to talk about. Um, that was my introduction. Now we're gonna get to my big idea. What we've examined is in that culture, it

is, uh, oppression and devastation and rebellion through satanic demonic forces. And there's the Holy Spirit and he anoints people to have wisdom and courage and leadership to navigate this fallen, crooked culture and to enjoy life and to enjoy God through this life. As we look at our world, it feels a lot like the days of the judges, but as we look at the judges, they are anointed of God, the Holy Spirit. And what makes them a leader and different is the presence of God's anointing on their life. The point is this, be aware of everything that is happening, but pay most attention to your anointing. Sometimes we get so busy looking out at the world in the future, we forget to look up and see the Lord ruling and reigning over all of it. In the Bible, the anointing is oftentimes typified with oil. As oil is poured out and when people, places and things like priests are anointed, the oil is poured out on that person, uh, that that person rather than that place or that thing. And it consecrates it as holy unto the Lord. And the oil represents the anointing flow of the Holy Spirit. That the Holy Spirit comes down and the Holy Spirit comes down to work for you and in you and through you and to anoint you. And what this leads to is a flow in the Spirit. A flow in the Spirit is where God, the Holy Spirit is flowing in you and through you and a healthy and holy way to honor God and to lead others into a better future. That's exactly what you're going to see in the life of Deborah. It says of Gideon that the Holy Spirit clothed him. You will see on his good days that Samson is filled with the Holy Spirit. And on the bad days he's not. The difference over and over in the Book of Judges is whether people are living under the anointing flow of God, the Holy Spirit or not. The same is true for you. The same is true for me. Let me say a few things about the Holy Spirit and the anointing flow of God on your life. First of all, God's anointing is sovereign. He determines it. We do not. You can't turn on his anointing. You can't turn off his anointing. You can't choose who gets it, where they get it, why they get it, how they get it, when they get it. It is he who determines when the spirit of God will be poured out and the anointing will flow on someone. In addition, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the the flow of God. It bypasses intellect and education. Our culture is broken because we value intellect and education not anointing. You can be smart and educated and do tremendous evil, but you can't do tremendous evil if you're living under the Holy Spirit's anointing. I'm not against intellect and I'm not against education. My IQ is decent. I've got a master's degree. But without anointing it means nothing. It bypasses intellect. Sometimes it's not the smartest people who get the anointing. Sometimes it's actually the humblest people because they can handle the anointing. There's a guy named DL Moody, for example, you may have heard of Moody Press, moody Radio, moody Bible College, uh, DL Moody. Uh, he is deceased now he's with Jesus having a great day. Uh, but the way he started ministry, he applied to Bible college and he failed the entrance exam because he wasn't very smart and got the questions wrong. So then he took all the boys that got kicked out of other churches and Sunday school classes 'cause they were all troublemakers. And he formed them into a group that he taught before it was done. He was a worldwide evangelist. On one day he preached to 130,000 people at one time. And I was reading a biography of his some years ago, and it said that when he, uh, exited the pulpit after thousands, tens of thousands of people were saved. He left his sermon notes and there was only three words written on the paper, and at least two of them were misspelled. Fel, how do you go from misspelled words to conversions? Anointing. That's right. Anointing. He didn't know what he was gonna say, but he said what the Holy Spirit told him to say. That's anointing. It also bypasses education. Uh, one of my favorite pastors is a man named Charles Hadden Spurgeon. He pastored in London. He became senior pastor at the age of 19. He was only converted for four years and they made him senior pastor at this historic legacy church. He was one of the most powerful preachers in the history of the world. A hundred thousand people showed up for his

funeral and he had no degree. He never went to college. Instead, his grandpa was a pastor and he would read his grandfather's books and dialogue with his grandfather about the Bible. And he just studied and prayed. And the Holy Spirit helped him learn the word of God. Let me say this, the key to learning the word of God is having humility and meeting with the Holy Spirit. When you study the Bible and you pray and you ask for God's anointing, it's the only book you'll ever read where the author will sit with you and teach you what he intended you to understand. It's anointing. Spurgeon didn't have a degree, but he had an anointing. Lemme say this as well. The anointing rests on Christ, churches and Christians. That is the flow. Um, Christ Jesus Christ. The word Christ literally means anointed. Jesus means God is savior. Christ means the anointed one. Jesus Christ is anointed savior. That's who he is. Jesus. And Luke four begins his public ministry. And here's what he says before he casts out demons, preaches, sermons, travels, raises the dead. He says, the spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me. What he's saying is everything I say and do from this moment forward, it's by the anointing. It's by the flow of the Holy Spirit. My Pentecostal friends like to talk of oily people. They're like, he's oily. She's oily. There's an anointing. There's a flow on them. In addition, different churches have different anointings. Um, some churches have an anointing to reach lost people. We can call them secret churches. And people criticize. They're like, uh, all they do is just, they're big church and they reach people. It's like, yeah, that's their anointing. That's what they're supposed to do. Other churches, God anoints them to be small because those people, they're best served in a smaller community. That's their anointing. Some churches are simple sermons, others are more complicated. And some of us take a long time. That's my anointing. Okay? Different churches have a worship anointing and the presence of God is thick and they like to sing and pray. Some churches have a missions anointing and they send people in money around the globe. Other churches have a community service anointing, and they, they're the hands of feet of Jesus. And here's what I would say, don't criticize God's anointing. Celebrate God's anointing, right? The church of Jesus Christ is diverse and he has his anointing that he pours out on different churches. And we just need to be faithful to our anointing. We need to celebrate the anointing of other churches. And when all is said and done, if Jesus is happy, we should be happy. That's why we don't like to criticize other churches that have a different anointing. In addition, many churches are living off of yesterday's anointing. The flow is stopped. There are many churches that people go to, but the Holy Spirit does not. I don't know why anyone would attend a church that God doesn't. We call this religion and tradition. And it was that at some point the Holy Spirit did flow. That's how the church came to be. But he's not flowing anymore. It's like the days of the judges. Everyone's doing what's right in their own eyes and no one is asking what would be right in the eyes of the Lord. In addition, when you're in an anointed church and there is a flow of the spirit, there's a sense of hope, there's a sense of expectancy, there's a sense of power. It's like, God is here, we're gonna be okay. He's got something for us. I can't wait to see what it is. There's that sense of hope and expectation and urgency when the spirit of God is present. And when it comes to Christians, and I'll invite the band up at this point, couple of things about the anointing. Anointed people can sense anointing. Somebody gets up to lead worship, you're like oily, right? They flow with the Holy Spirit. Somebody gets up to teach, you're like oily. They flow with the Holy Spirit. You sit down with someone and, and they're giving you wise counsel, oily. That's the Holy Spirit. You're in the flow. In addition for individual Christians, don't covet their anointing. Be content with your anointing. Some of you're anointed to be a leader. Some of you're anno anointed to be a follower or a servant. Some of you are anointed to care for an individual. Some of you are anointed to care for a group. Some of you are anointed to be a good

parent or a good spouse or a good boss. And there's different anointings. Don't, don't covet their anointing. Just, just be content with your anointing. And let me say this as well. Um, when you get into a new season of life and you have a new need, oftentimes you get a new anointing. This isn't in my notes, but I just feel like I'm supposed to tell you this. Some of you're in a season right now. You're like, I I I'm in a different season. I have different roles and responsibilities. I have different obstacles and different opportunities. I don't know what to do. There will be a fresh anointing that God will pour out a fresh anointing for this season. And some of you have some fear and anxiety. I just, I sense like I'm supposed to say this, you have anxiety. You're like, I, I'm, I've not done this. I'm not ready for this. You, you don't get the anointing until you need the anointing and you'll get the anointing. When you need the anointing, the Holy Spirit will pour out on you so that he can work through you to be indu the things that he's called of you. Let me say this as well. Anytime there is anointing, there is always opposition. This is the story of judges. God anoints the judges as leaders, they rise up and there is opposition. There is spiritual attack, there is physical attack. We're actually going to study multiple wars in what is today the Gaza Strip Between the people that God told to have removed from the land that didn't. And so then they invaded and terrorized the Jewish people. You're gonna get a complete prophetic mind melt. And everything that's happening today started 3000 years ago in the same place. And today is happening again through their descendants. That being said, anytime there is anointing, there is opposition. You're gonna see throughout the story of judges is your own life. If you are anointed and filled with the spirit and obeying God, there will be powers, principalities, and spirits working through people who come against you and seek to stop you because you're bringing the presence of God. For those of you who are in a dry season, you feel like the oil has stopped flowing. You can't lose your salvation, but you can lose your anointing. Once Jesus died for your sins and you received him as Lord and Savior, your eternity is secure, but your anointing can be lost if you live in sin and rebellion. If you only do what is right in your eyes and you do not do what is right in God's eyes, you don't lose your salvation. But you lose your anointing. You feel very dry. You feel very alone. You feel that God is very far. This is the story of judges. They were God's people, but they were not anointed. Some of you are God's people, but you've not lived under God's anointing. And this is the day that you repent of your sin. You return to Jesus and you welcome the Holy Spirit to freshly anoint you so that you can walk in obedience to the Lord. I'll, I'll, I'll close with a story in a verse and then we'll meet with the Lord. Um, it was about almost a decade ago, worst season of my whole life and my family's life. Um, God had done wonderful things. There was an incredible outpouring and flow. Lots of people saved, lots of churches, planted lots of good things done by the grace of God. And then there was lots of opposition. Um, darkest season of my whole life and most difficult season for my family. And I'm not gonna speak about people to speak ill of them. I'm not gonna speak of me to defend me. I would rather talk about the Lord. And God called us to resign. And I was sitting at home, uh, in my mid forties, grace and the kids were home. I went into my library, uh, because I, I was going to weep and mourn and I didn't want to do that in front of the kids. And I remember sitting there and I was talking to the Lord. I thought it was prayer. I think he would say I was complaining. Uh, sometimes that's what prayer sounds like, right? And I was like, Lord, I've, I've lost everything. I lost my job. I lost my church. I gotta sell my home. We're leaving our city. We've lost friends. I've lost my reputation. I've lost everything. And, uh, the Lord spoke to me and he said, son, and whenever the Lord speaks to me, he calls me Son. He said, son, you gave me your sin. Why won't you give me a reputation? Yeah, that's true. Father, I I want to give you what I hate, but I want to keep what I love. You can have my reputation. And, um, I remember

asking him, God, what, where do I go? What do I do? What do you have for me? What do you have for my family? Like, everything we were doing stopped flowing. The flow just stopped. And I said, Lord, I don't have a job. I don't have a city. I don't have a church. I don't have a platform. I I don't have a ministry. And the father spoke to me. He said, son, don't worry about that. You will have my anointing. He told me, my anointing will go with you and you and your family will be fine. I learned in that moment that if I could have everything except for the anointing, I would rather have nothing. And the anointing, God's anointing, presence and power of the Holy Spirit flowing on in and through you is the most significant thing that you could possibly clinging to for the rest of your life. And here's how God wants to pour out his anointing on you. And I'll, I'll say this too. Um, I'm in an anointed season. Yes, I would encourage you to pray for, I'm not saying I'm a big deal, I'm just trying to figure out like, Lord, it feels really oily right now. Um, where do you want us to flow? What do you want me to say? What do you want us to do? What I don't want is a good plan. What I want is to be a good follower Of my God who has a good plan and our God who has a good plan. I pray and I hope, and I'm asking God that for you, this would be an oily year. Yes. That for our church, this would be an oily year. Amen. As this world gets more friction and conflict, I pray that we would have more anointing and flow. Yes. And the key to receiving the anointing is found in Judges chapter four, verse three. Here it is. The people cried out to the Lord for help. They finally reached the point where they stopped planning and they started praying. They stopped worrying and they started worshipping. They stopped looking out at the problems and they started looking up to the Lord. And as their cries went up, his anointing came down. Please stand, cry out to the Lord. Tell him what you have done and need forgiveness for. Tell him how you are struggling. Do not worry about what those around you would think or say or do. You are in the presence of God. You are the people of God. The Holy Spirit wants to anoint you with power so that you can be the child of God walking in the anointing that he intends for you. It is now time for you to meet with him.