

THE STORY OF

DEBORAH



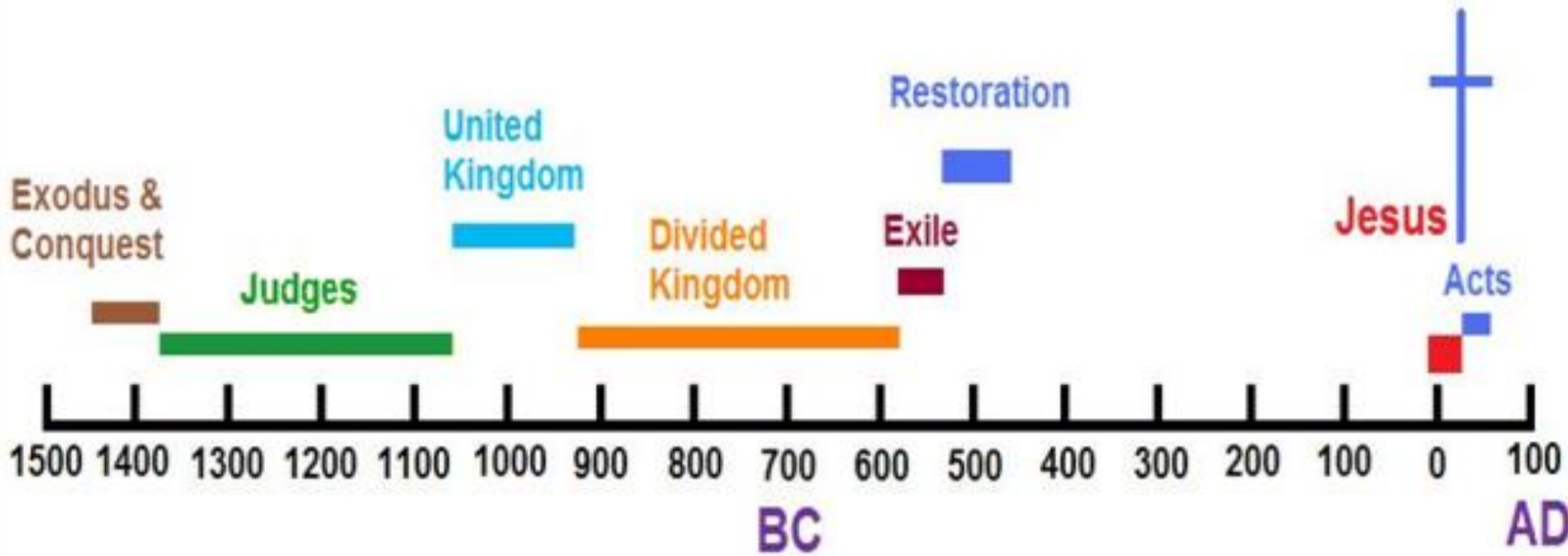
HEROES OF THE FAITH SERIES

Background

Judges 4-5:9, 31

‘Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.’

Judges 2:18-19



1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, now that Ehud was dead. 2 So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim.

Judges 4:1-2

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading^a Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. 6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him,

*“The LORD, the God of Israel,
commands you: ‘Go, take with you
ten thousand men of Naphtali and
Zebulun and lead them up to Mount
Tabor. 7 I will lead Sisera, the
commander of Jabin’s army, with his
chariots and his troops to the Kishon
River and give him into your
hands.’ ”*

8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go." 9 "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. **15** At Barak’s advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

23 *On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. 24 And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.*

1. A prophetess

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. Judges 4:4

2. Earned their respect – Judges 4:5

She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. Judges 4:5

When you have influence people follow you, when you have respect they keep following you.

Weak leaders believe that their position or title deserves respect. Strong leaders know that they must earn it.

THE 5 LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP

5 PINNACLE

Respect

People follow because of who you are and what you represent.



4 PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

Reproduction

People follow because of what you have done for them.



3 PRODUCTION

Results

People follow because of what you have done for the organization.



2 PERMISSION

Relationships

People follow because they want to.



1 POSITION

Rights

People follow because they have to.

**Respect is earned by Character
and Competency – Judges 4:4-5,**

**3. Her leadership freed a
nation**

Judges 4:14, 23-24

23 *On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. 24 And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.*

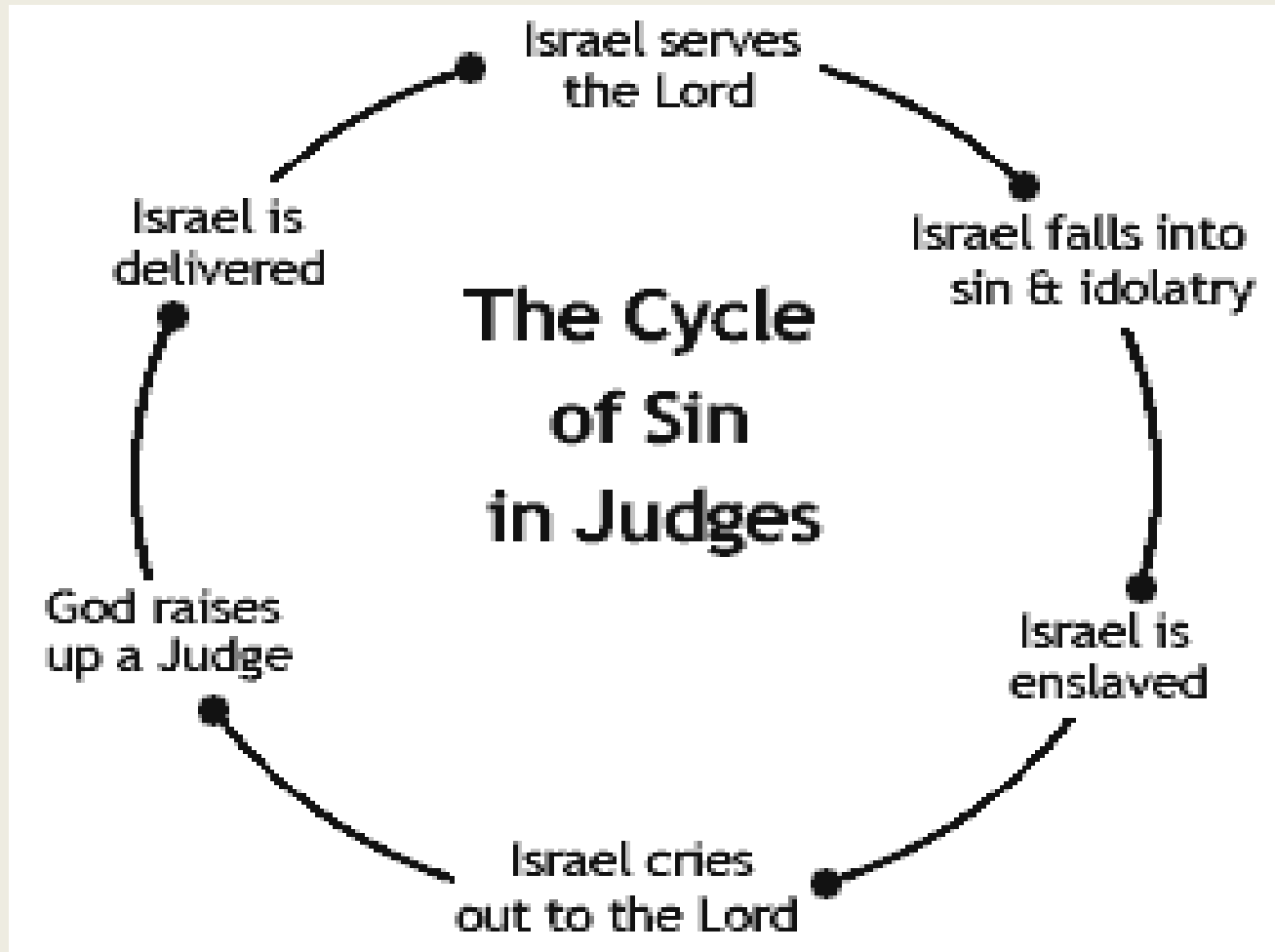
4. Had vision and a plan

6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. 7 I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’ ” Judges 4:6-7



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

5. Broke the cycle of evil in her nation



Personal Application questions:

Do I know what my identity is in Christ?

**If I'm a leader, what level of is my
leadership?**

**How am I earning respect by my
character and competency?**

Personal Application questions:

**Does my influence on others help
break the cycle of evil?**

**What is one take away today for
me?**

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