

#7 God's Raising Up of Deborah as a Judge of Israel and as a Mother in Israel Who Practiced the Female Submission to the Man in Order to Keep God's Ordination and Bring All of Israel into a Proper Order under God's Kingship and Headship 10/11-17 **OL Summary:**

I. The book of Judges shows that Israel had offended God by rejecting Him as their King; it is a great wickedness, a great evil, in the sight of God if we reject Him as our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband: **A.** We should continually take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband so that He can be our blessing to make us a channel of blessing to the saints and all the churches. **B.** [Matthew 1:1](#) speaks of Christ as "the son of David, the son of Abraham".

II. God raised up Deborah as a Judge of Israel who practiced the female submission to the man in order to keep God's ordination and bring all of Israel into a proper order under God's kingship and headship: **A.** The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah after Ehud died, so Jehovah sold Israel into the hand of Jabin the king of Canaan, the captain of whose army was Sisera; he had nine hundred iron chariots, and he oppressed Israel severely for twenty years. **B.** At the time of Judges 4, the men of Israel had failed in their God-ordained function of leadership; this forced God to do something extraordinary and unusual in raising up a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel; the raising up of such a female changed the entire condition of Israel. **C.** The children of Israel cried out to Jehovah, and Deborah, a prophetess, was raised up as a judge of Israel; she would sit under the palm of Deborah, and the children of Israel went up to her for judgment. **D.** In the Bible a proper female indicates one who is in submission to God, one who keeps God's ordination; this is the position that Israel should have taken before God as her King, her Lord, her Head, and her Husband, but Israel violated God's ordination, leaving her position as God's wife and forsaking Him for hundreds of idols; this brought Israel into a miserable situation and condition. **E.** By reading Deborah's song in Judge 5, we can see that she was full of ability, capacity, insight, and foresight, but such an excellent and capable person was very submissive; God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering. **F.** Deborah realized that she needed a man to be her covering; as Paul says in [1 Corinthians 11:3](#): "Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ." **G.** When this excellent, extraordinary woman took the lead to practice the female submission to the man, the entire country came into an excellent and proper order; all the leaders took the lead, all the people followed, and the army was formed; everyone returned to his or her proper position before Jehovah. **H.** Thus, Deborah could say in her song, "That the leaders took the lead in Israel, / That the people have willingly offered themselves,

/Bless Jehovah... / Then a remnant of the nobles went down; / The people of Jehovah went down with me against the might". **I.** The first and greatest function of the sisters in the church is to be submissive; if the sisters can learn this lesson, the church will be strong, enriched, and renewed.

III. Deborah rose up not only as a judge of Israel but also as a mother in Israel: **A.** When the church life in practicality reaches a peak, there should be some real mothers in every church; in [Romans 16:13](#) Paul says, "Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine". **B.** The Gospel of John is a book on life, not on the natural life but on the transferred and transformed life; originally, John was not Mary's son, and Mary was not John's mother, but by Christ's life-releasing death, by His life-dispensing resurrection, and by His life union with them, His beloved disciple could be one with Him and become the son of His mother, and she could become the mother of His beloved disciple. **J.** **C.** Our first relationship is in the flesh, but the second is in the spirit, that is, in the transferred life; because we have the second birth, surely we have the second relationship, the second family relationship with the real sisters and the real mothers. **D.** If the sisters exercise their spirit of prayer and faith to be real mothers, they will realize how selfish they are and how much they are in themselves; having good children in the spirit will expose them to the uttermost; furthermore, the sisters will grow and mature in life by taking care of some spiritual children. **E.** If the sisters love the Lord and mean business to be for the church life in the Lord's recovery, they need to consider themselves as serving nurses, as church nurses, who give nursing care in the church as a true hospital; all the sisters need to be serving sisters by prayer and loving mothers by the most excellent way of love in order to help the needy ones and the younger ones in their spiritual life and church life; this is the best way to receive the blessing, the growth, the spirituality, and the real enjoyment of the Lord.

IV. The Bible says that at that time among God's people, there were "great resolutions in heart," and there were "great searchings of heart": **A.** To have a great resolve is to make a firm decision, and to have a great searching is to devise a plan to live to the Lord and to live out the Lord for His up-to-date recovery in the building up of His Body, the preparation of His bride, and the ushering in of His kingdom in its manifestation. **B.** As Brother Lee was in the process of being oppressed by the Japanese military police in 1943, the Lord gave him a dream in which he saw the day dawn, like the dawning in the morning, with a broad highway, very bright, very straight, and stretching on boundlessly; this is the broad highway, the rising sun, and the boundless future of the Lord's recovery. **C.** We need to aspire and pray to be like those whom Deborah describes at the end of her song, which concludes in a glorious way: "May those who love Him be like the sun / When it rises in its might" ([Judg. 5:31](#)).

CP1: Because we are rebels, only when we repent and submit to Christ as the son of David can we participate the blessing

OL1: The book of Judges shows that Israel had offended God by rejecting Him as their King. **OL2:** Because we are rebels, we need to repent and receive Christ as the son of David, that is, as our authority, as our Sovereign and King, so that He may rule in us and over us in God's kingdom.

OL3: This will cause us to become channels of blessing for the saints' progress (their growth in life) and for their joy of the faith (their enjoyment of Christ); we have been called to bless others, so we, as a blessed people, should always bless others that we may inherit blessing.

We need to repent not only because we are sinful but also because we are rebellious. We are even enemies of God. We need to repent of our rebellion....If we did not rebel, we could not sin. Because we are rebels, we need to repent and receive Christ as our authority, as our Sovereign and King, that He may rule in us and over us in God's kingdom. This is the reason that in Matthew 1:1 Christ is presented first not as the Son of Abraham for the blessing but as the Son of David for the kingdom. Once there is the kingdom, the kingdom becomes the realm, the sphere, for God to exercise Himself to bless us. [Matt. 1:1](#)

[The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.](#) **OL4:** God raised up Deborah as a judge of Israel who practiced the female submission to the man in order to keep God's ordination and bring all of Israel into a proper order under God's kingship and headship. [1 Cor. 11:3](#) But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ. **OL5:** Samson was a Nazarite from his mother's womb for the full course of his life; the Nazarite was to let his hair grow long, signifying that he was to remain in subjection to the Lord's headship, wherein is power. But... because of Satan's wearing-out tactics, Samson fell into Satan's snare, his hair was shaved by Delilah, and he was captured by the Philistines, losing his Nazarite consecration, his power, his testimony of sanctification, and God's presence. **OL6:**

Those who accept the different and wrong teaching that the believers should not submit to deputy authorities appointed by God will be spoiled by this teaching; with us (especially with the married sisters), there should be a submissive spirit, standing, atmosphere, and intention; if you are such a person, there will be a great blessing for you and for your future. **OL7:** Deborah was full of ability, capacity, insight, and foresight, but such an excellent and capable person was very submissive; God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering.

Application to business person and graduate students

Business persons and graduate students need to repent before God, knowing that you are rebellious. Being rebellious is not necessarily sinful. Rebellion means that you are rebelling against God, against the

responsible person of the church, against your boss at work, against the parents of your family, and against the government of your country or municipality. You are rebelling against God and the authority that God has established. The source of this rebellious nature is Satan. Due to the fall of Adam, the sinful nature of Satan began to live in man's body, the man's body became flesh, and man's soul became rebellious. Because you believed in the Lord, your dead spirit was enlivened and regenerated. Satan cannot touch the regenerated spirit, so in order to be saved from the rebellious nature, you must exercise your spirit and set your mind on the spirit. You also need to confess your sins of rebellious attitudes and remarks against God and His deputy authority. This is so that you can grow in life. Again, in order for you to grow, you must deal with your rebellious nature.

Testimony: I was saved when I was a freshman in college. I started preaching the gospel when I was a sophomore in college, and all my classmates in the club activity, four male and two female members, and many junior members were saved. Also, some others outside of my club activity were saved as well. In many of the gospel meetings, most of the gospel friends were the ones I brought with me. When the monthly gospel meeting was over, Satan came and tempted my pride by saying, "Aren't you extremely good at what you do?" I accepted his suggestion and muttered in my heart that, "Come to think of it, if it wasn't for me, most of my gospel friends would not be at the gospel meeting at all. And "didn't most of the baptized ones were brought over by me?" When I was doing gospel, I was only thinking about gospel, and when it was over, I always felt a surge of pride in me. This was repeated many times over, but I didn't know how to deal with this issue. However, when I graduated from the university and entered the graduate school, by Lord's mercy, I was able to gradually understand the following with the light shined upon me, "The gospel preaching was very much blessed, because of the prayers from the brothers and sisters", "Though I was able to bring many gospel friends, the gospel preaching itself was carried out by the responsible brother in the church", "As I only did my part as one member of the Body, it is against the fact to uplift myself so high". The vision of the Body saved me from pride and rebellion. [Rom. 12:3](#) For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, I know I am rebellious and I repent before God. I confess my sins of rebellious attitudes and remarks against God and His deputy authority. In the genealogy of Christ in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ is first presented as the Son of David for ruling and then as the Son of Abraham for blessing. Without dealing with pride and rebellion, there will be no growth and blessing. Let me deal with the rebellion and move forward in the Lord. Amen!

CP2: The first and greatest function of the sisters in the church is to be submissive. The lessons of absolute submission need to be learned by brothers also

OL1: The first and greatest function of the sisters in the church is to be submissive; if the sisters can learn this lesson, the church will be strong, enriched, and renewed. **OL2:** To be submissive requires the supply of life, the enjoyment of grace, the working of the cross, and the denial of the self. **OL3:** Those who are filled with Christ are filled with submission; the Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has given us His life of submission and obedience. **OL4:** For a sister to marry a brother means that she is willing to offer herself up and say, "I am willing to submit"; if a sister has never intended in her heart to submit to the one whom she intends to marry, she should not be his wife and should not marry him. [Eph. 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord.](#) [1 Pet. 3:5 For in this manner formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, adorned themselves, being subject to their own husbands.](#) In the entire world today, in every country, in all the schools, and in all the homes, what we see is not order and submission but rebellion upon rebellion. The entire world is rebellious toward God. The world is like a stormy ocean full of the winds of rebellion. In the church the situation should not be like this. The church is God's chosen vessel to bear a testimony to the universe that is absolutely different from the world. The church is sanctified, separated from the course of the world and from the current of the age. As the church we are not in the flow of the world but in the flow of the New Jerusalem. In the local churches as the local expressions of the Body of Christ, there should be genuine submission. ...To be submissive requires the supply of life, the enjoyment of grace, the working of the cross, and the denial of the self. We should never try to be submissive by our self. We should consecrate ourselves to the Lord not to do a work for the Lord but simply to be submissive. If the sisters take care of this one matter of being submissive, the church will be strengthened, enriched, and renewed. **OL5:** Deborah rose up not only as a judge of Israel but also as a mother in Israel. **OL6:** When the church life in practicality reaches a peak, there should be some real mothers in every church; in [Romans 16:13](#) Paul says, "Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine". **OL7:** The apostle Paul needed a mother; without a sister as a mother to take care of them, all of those who bear the burden for the Lord's service would be sorrowful; we all need the care of spiritual mothers, whose care is our real nourishment and our real protection. [Rom. 16:1-2 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,...for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.](#) **OL8:** Paul's having a spiritual mother indicates that the saints in the church life in Rome had a life transfer through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ; the best way to have a life transfer is by following the pattern of Paul, who did not determine to know anything but the all-inclusive Christ, and this One crucified.

Application to the serving ones:

God caused Deborah to rise up as a judge of Israel. Deborah carried out the submission of women to men, kept God's commandments, and brought all Israel into right order under God's kingship and headship. We need more sister Deborahs who obey in the church life. The more sister Deborahs there are, the more blessed and stronger the church will be. Deborah's testimony has not only gives light on the sisters who serve, but also on the brothers who serve. [1 Cor. 11:3 But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.](#) I Corinthians 11:3 shows headship in the universe. Just as a woman must obey a man, so a man must obey Christ.

In Japanese corporate organizations, there tend to be many departmental small kingdoms. In many cases, the president is supposed to have authority over the entire company organization, but in reality, he often does not. Recently, quality control irregularities in a major electronics company were discovered. The cause was that the factory had become a small kingdom. This small kingdom comes from the fact that the person in charge of the department is not rebelling against the president, but he does not obey 100% of the time, but 75% of the time and wants the remaining 25% to be done the way he wants it done. This 75% obedience may be obedience in the Japanese corporate culture, but in the light of the Bible, it is rebellion. The responsible brothers in the church should obey the ministry of the age completely 100% in order not to turn the local church into a small kingdom. Also, the brothers who are in charge of the district should not make the district a small kingdom. Instead, they should follow the leading of the local church 100%. This is not to say that we should not respond flexibly according to the situation of the district. We need to focus on the leading of the church and respond to the actual needs. You must learn the 100% absolute obedience according to the Bible, not the 75% obedience of the Japanese culture. Otherwise, you will never be able to build the church and have the blessed church life and Christian life. [Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.](#) **FN [The throne of God and of the Lamb:](#)** This depicts how the Triune God- God, the Lamb, and the Spirit, who is symbolized by the water of life – dispenses Himself to His redeemed under His headship (implied in the authority of the throne) for eternity. [1 Pet. 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.](#) The Bible here indicates that the river of the water of life flows from the throne. In other words, without obedience to the throne, the water of life cannot flow out. **Prayer:** Lord, the first and foremost function of sisters is to obey. We need this lesson for our brothers. It is not 75% obedience as we see in Japanese corporate culture, but 100% absolute obedience according to the Bible. The water of life flows from the throne, so only through absolute submission to God's authority can we participate the supply of the river of water of life that flows from the throne. We learn to obey Christ as our model and our life.

CP3: Love the Lord and younger saints and determine to be a small pattern, become an overcomer and shine as the rising sun

OL1: If the sisters exercise spirit of prayer and faith to be real mothers, they will realize how selfish they are and how much they are in themselves; having good children in the spirit will expose them to the uttermost; furthermore, the sisters will grow and mature in life by taking care of some spiritual children. **OL2:** If the sisters love the Lord and mean business to be for the church life in the Lord's recovery, they need to consider themselves as serving nurses, as church nurses, who give nursing care in the church as a true hospital; all the sisters need to be serving sisters by prayer and living mothers by the most excellent way of love in order to help the needy ones and the younger ones in their spiritual life and church life; this is the best way to receive the blessing, the growth, the spirituality, and the real enjoyment of the Lord. John 19:26-27

Then Jesus, seeing His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by, said to His mother, Woman, behold, your son. Then He said to the disciple, Behold, your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. In his training in 1948 Brother Nee told the saints, especially the sisters, that they should be a mother to another young saint. Many sisters could each take care of two or three children in the spirit. For the most part, children do not like to respect the word of their own parents, especially when they become teenagers. But if I would take your children as my children, they would respect my word. If my children have some problems, they would not open themselves to me. But if you would take them as your children, they would open up their whole being to you. Although they would not take anything that I would say to them, they would receive whatever you would say. There are many problems with the parents and the teenagers. Very few teenagers would be submissive and obedient. Yet even the troublesome ones would be happy to listen to someone other than their own parents. **OL2:** The Bible says that at that time among God's people, there were "Great resolutions in heart," and there were "great searchings of heart." **OL3:** For the sun to rise in its might means that it shines brightly, brilliantly, and gloriously; if all the churches would experience the resolutions, the searchings, and the rising up to shine like the sun, they surely would enjoy the Lord as their victory.

OL4: The overcomers who are reconstituted with the healing Christ as the Sun of righteousness will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Judg. 5:15-16 Among the divisions of Reuben there were great resolutions in heart...In the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart. May all the young people, starting from today, be willing to have great resolutions and great searchings of heart...To have a great searching is to devise a plan. This is not just to have a resolve but to have a great resolve, and not just to make a plan but to make a great plan.

Application to new ones, youth and college students:

Young people and new ones should always take up the burden of taking care of younger and newer people. They

need your shepherding. Sixth graders can look after fourth and fifth graders, junior high school students can look after fifth and sixth graders, high school students can look after junior high school students, and university students can look after high school students. Also, a person who has been saved for the third year can look after a person who is in the second year, and a person who is in the second year can look after a person who is in the first year. You must not say, "I am too young to be a serving nurse in the church". You may not be able to become a nurse, but you can become an apprentice nurse.

Fallen men are all rebellious against God and His deputy authorities. Children, especially when they are over 10 years old, become rebellious against their parents. You are also rebellious, but you are only slightly better than them. And they need a brother or sister who is a little older in age (including spiritual age) in addition to the help of their parents and teachers. You may not be a big pattern, but you can be a small role pattern for them. Isa. 65:2 I have stretched out My hands all day long / To a rebellious people, / Who walk in a way that is not good, / After their own thoughts; Rom. 10:20 And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me." 21 But with regard to Israel he says, "All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a people who disobey and contradict." Brother Nee wrote Chinese Hymn 128 that says:

1. I prostrate, Lord, before Thee, Marvel at boundless grace
That I, though chief of sinners, Am saved, brought to Thy face. World-loving as a sinner, I never thought of Thee;
Encompassing with mercy, Thou sought and came to me.
8. Thy heav'nly throne Thou leavest, For me to Calv'ry trod,
Yet I am still half-hearted, With apathy toward God. The world holds my allegiance, Thy path too narrow felt, My little self too precious, And yet I am indwelt.
10. To bear with pain and mockings From heaven to depart?
Accepting earth's mistreatings To woo this hard, cold heart? E'en though Thou knew my nature, To shed dear blood for me? E'en though Thou knew I'm evil, To suffer painfully?
13. While in that brightness glor'ous, I'll never cease to praise,
For grace and love that sought me, Worship through endless days. I long in Thy bright city My praise might be complete, Thy love and grace to fathom, My thanks to Thee replete.

We are now living the church life in the Lord's recovery, not because we are good, but because of His love and mercy. You should be thankful for God's mercy, be determined, and look after younger people for God's economy. **Prayer:** Oh Lord Jesus, I need to take care of the brothers and sisters in the church. I myself am still young, but the younger brothers and sisters need the care of older brothers and sisters. I may not be able to become a nurse, but I can still become an apprentice nurse. May I become a small pattern for them. I want to be an overcomer and shine like the rising sun, determined to love the Lord and the saints and to be a small pattern for the building of the church.