

October 18/19, 2025

"Deborah"

Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Judges 4:1](#) | Judges

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, now that Ehud was dead. Judges 4:1

Joshua leads the promised people into the promised land. Yet, after Joshua dies, an unfortunate pattern emerges. Rather than faithfully submitting to God and his ways (as revealed in the law given through Moses), the Israelites turn from God and look to pagan idols. After realizing their folly and the consequences of their decisions, the people then turn to God, who delivers them through a judge. It's a vicious cycle that continues for roughly three hundred years.

Like the Israelites, we can also get stuck in patterns of sin, rebellion and consequences. There are more flagrant or obvious forms of rebellion that lead to severe consequences, like substance abuse or adultery. But there are also less obvious patterns that can be just as destructive, such as gossiping, endless scrolling, overeating, discontentment, or outbursts of anger. Whatever our struggle might be, God wants us to turn to him for deliverance. Yet, rather than going back to our patterns of sin and rebellion as the Israelites did, we can resist temptation and walk faithfully with God. This week, as we consider the judges and Deborah's story, we shall see that there is hope for freedom from patterns of sin and oppression.

TODAY: Consider how you might be stuck in a pattern of sin like the Israelites. Identify an area of your life that needs correction, and ask God for the grace to turn to him and walk in new ways. Maybe pray something like: "Father, help me resist _____, and to trust you and live a new life by the power of your Spirit. In Jesus's name, Amen."

Day 2 [Judges 2:11-12](#) | Stop Tolerating Temptation

Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. Judges 2:11

God commanded Joshua and the Israelites to remove the Canaanites from the promised land completely ([Deuteronomy 7:1-2](#)). He warned them that the Canaanites would influence the Israelites toward idolatry and immorality if left in the land. In [Exodus 23:33](#), God said the Canaanites would "cause you to sin against me" and that they would "certainly be a snare to you." Unfortunately, as predicted this is exactly how the story unfolds. The Israelites do not drive out the Canaanites, and they fall prey to the Canaanites' ways of idol worship and immorality.

In much the same way, we can tolerate sin and temptation in our lives. We sometimes rationalize our sin or play it off as if it's no big deal. But nowhere in Scripture do we get the impression that sin is no big deal. Throughout the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, we see God commanding his people to wage war against sin. For instance, Paul wrote to the Colossians, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry" ([Colossians 3:5](#)).

TODAY: Think about your cycles or patterns of sin. Where and when are you most tempted? What do you need to put in place to stop tolerating that temptation and take drastic measures? Journal about a drastic measure you can take and ask God for the grace to put such a measure in place. Need further help? Email us at care@adabible.org.

Day 3 [Judges 4:6-10](#) | Partial Obedience

Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go." Judges 4:8

The Israelites call out to God for deliverance again. After twenty years of oppression under Jabin, the king of Canaan, they are still stuck in the same sinful pattern. God raises up Deborah to lead and deliver his people from Canaanite oppression. As part of God's work to free the Israelites, God calls on Barak, an associate of Deborah, to meet Jabin in battle. Barak, however, is skittish and commits to going only if Deborah goes with him. His delay is partial obedience, which is actually disobedience.

We can be like Barak, putting off our obedience by delay or conditions. We often do so because of fear, doubt or outright rebellion. Maybe we hold a grudge and remain unwilling to forgive: "I will forgive that person *if* I can get even with them." Or maybe we refuse to make necessary changes when we know it's right: "I will stop looking at those websites *once* I get married." Partial or delayed obedience is disobedience. However, choosing to obey God's command unlocks the best life God has in mind for us.

TODAY: Consider how you might be delaying obedience. Identify an area of your life where you need to take an intentional step of obedience, without delay. Ask God for help, and then take the necessary steps of obedience right away. If you would like help on the journey of living an obedient life, consider joining one of our new four-week Courageous Faith Groups. More information is available [HERE](#).

You can also explore Deborah's story further on the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast*—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [Revelation 19:11-16](#) | We Need a King

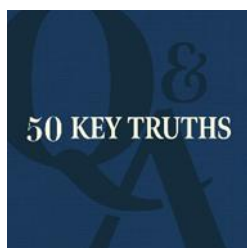
"On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:16

The last verse in Judges summarizes a core theme in the book: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit" ([Judges 21:25](#)). People did what was right in their own eyes, but they needed a righteous leader. As the story unfolds, Israel would have many kings, but none of them would live up to being a perfect, righteous king. The book of Revelation identifies Jesus as that perfect King. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Where all other leaders and kings of Israel failed, Jesus came as the righteous King in whom we find life and peace.

The longing for a king—the longing for leadership and peace—finds its fulfillment in Jesus, the King of Kings. Submitting to the rule of King Jesus means trusting him and walking in his ways. Jesus came to establish a different sort of kingdom with a different way of life. Trusting Jesus implies believing that his work is sufficient for our salvation. It also involves putting his teachings into practice—like loving our enemies, turning the other

cheek, and forgiving those who have done us harm. Jesus is the King who knows what life is all about. Will we follow him?

TODAY: If you have never put your faith in King Jesus, today is a great day to do so. And if you already trust Jesus for your salvation, then pray a prayer of surrender to Jesus's rule as King over your life. Consider using Jesus's prayer as a model: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" ([Matthew 6:9-10](#)).



Day 5 [Romans 12:3-8](#) | Question 41: Members of the Body

Question: What do members of the body of Christ do?

Answer: Members of the body of Christ recognize the value of all members in the body and humbly use their gifts to build up the body and fulfill God's mission.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:4-5

Paul writes to believers in Rome, explaining their individual roles within the larger body of Christ. He uses the metaphor of a physical body to illustrate how each believer has a unique function but belongs to all the others. Paul explains that just as body parts have different purposes but work together for the health of the whole body, individuals in the church have different gifts and responsibilities from the Holy Spirit but must function together for the church's health. Every member of the body has a purpose and responsibilities and needs other members to grow and function to fulfill God's mission for the church.

We continue to play vital roles in the body of Christ. Every member has a purpose and responsibilities within the church body. They could be commitments to participate, serve, share spiritual gifts or give financially. Through each member's gifts, God uses the church to be the agent of his redemptive plan. God sends us out to participate in his work of redemption. The church is God's mission in the world. Actively using our gifts to build up the body is the privilege, responsibility and joy of being a Christ follower.

TODAY: Reflect on how you participate in the church's mission. Consider what gifts God has given you and commit to one specific way you can use them to serve the body of Christ. Read more about the church in our We Believe document [HERE](#).