

PRAYING In The Bible

Prayer in the Bible: Deborah Song

There are prayers that appear humble. Yet, at times we can boast of the Lord. Some might even say we are bragging and arrogant. I have heard the comments “what makes you so special?” But, should we be boastful in the Lord? If He is great and loving then why not brag that we have that type of powerful God on our side? The detractors would claim we have no special status. We are no different than anyone. Yet, to the believer, we find ourselves in a strange place between heaven and hell. God’s goodness and mercy have fallen upon us. Welcome to Deborah’s Song.

It is a signature of all Bible prayers to honor God. Saying God help me seems far from their heart. Yes, Deborah has things in her heart she wants to share with God. Yet, she knows who butters her bread. As I said in previous song type prayers, this is an ode or dedication to the Lord. It comes across as boastful, but boastful to who? The first five verses of Judges 5 are a declaration that God’s mighty power saved them. It is part of the template that Jesus prayed. Our father in heaven hallowed be thy name. Deborah is praising her strength found in God.

There are Christian songs like “who am I?” verses 6-14 of today’s song are sung the same way. God picked “me” (Deborah and her companions) to save Israel. Yet, she makes sure that God gets the credit. It is by no mistake that she mentions some of the clans of Israel fighting together. Verse 20 sums up this whole scene “*From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.*” It means that with the strength of the Lord “in heaven” Israel fought and won.

I would like to pause here on this prayer. No matter if it is considered a song or prayer, we know who they are singing to. I would call this type of prayer two sided. In one way it is a way to remember historical events. I cannot tell you how many song lyrics have touched my heart. I can remember them. This is partially how Israel passes down its history. A second side is all about victory. In so many ways Deborah is telling her enemies that they had no chance. That if we have faith then God will respond. In-fact He did respond and wiped you out. Who won the battle? This song declares that it was Israel through the leadership of Deborah and Barak. It was through the tribes coming together. Yet, the whole thing was fueled by the Lord allowing them to win. As a side note: allowing the enemies of God to lose.

Far too often Christians decide that being humble means we do not brag of God. That we do not offend our enemies. Yet, I feel that many of the Bible prayers want to extoll their Lord and debase their enemies. Think about it. 1 Corinthians 15:55 “*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?*” Hosea 13:14 “*I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?*” There are countless mockers of Christians saying we should have not arrogant confidence in the Lord. But, we should!

The Last number of verses in this song mock the enemies. It even goes so far as to mock the mother of the enemy. Our current generation just cannot do it. How to claim victory and mock the wicked. Modern Christianity struggles with boasting to the Lord. Yet, the Bible has no issue with evil. Look at verse 31 “*So may all your enemies perish, Lord!*” The modern believer would not dare say something so impactful. There is a growing movement of churches that believe this type of prayer is hateful. Yet, I must ask you, is hating evil and those against God hateful? What if we truly hated evil and the forces of darkness as God and Deborah do?

I will say that reading the New Testament while ignoring the Old is a crime against the Lord. It seems harsh but hear me out. Jesus, Paul, and many others preach from the old text. Jesus made bold claims that got Him killed. If we blasted evil in our culture we might get cancelled (whatever that means). The point of this song (prayer) is relying on the Lord and hating sin. It is honoring our history and making a better future. Think about today's culture. They hate history. They try to silence the truth. God's ways and word have been removed from the public realm. Evil is honored in Hollywood, politics, and within new laws. Some would say that the sins of the past are not really sins. This society has made the world free of God's negative view on old sin.

Where are Christians on our streets and in social media? Is it safe to walk at night? Is it safe to surf the web? Evil rules. What if we should pray that a Deborah will rise and crush the heads of state? Destroy the evil corporation of social media. To blast the waves of social change? To return our lands to the Lord. Ask the heavens to destroy all the wicked? Yes, you are swallowing hard right now. That is not how we roll. Yet, Deborah did! This prayer is bold and boastful in the Lord. You may not like the language but even you must admit she got results. Thank God for that.