

The Call for Help

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“Curse Meroz ... curse its inhabitants bitterly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.”

Judges 5:23

In Israel during the time of the judges things were so spiritually and morally corrupt that it seemed the nation would utterly perish in that generation. Today in our culture we see a similar situation. As it was then so it is now—everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes. Thus, spiritual and moral chaos ensues.

The Call for Help

In Judges 5, we have recorded the song of Deborah and Barak—two people whom God used to deliver the children of Israel from their enemies. In this song, they relate past examples of how God defended Israel. A call had gone out for the various tribes of Israel to help fight against their mutual enemies; Deborah and Barak commended or rebuked the tribes based on how they responded to the call.

If we read the entire chapter, we find that Reuben had intended to join the battle but never followed through. Gilead, Dan, and Asher ignored the problem, hoping it would go away. However, Zebulun and Naphtali were praised because they risked their lives on the battlefield.

Deborah and Barak were seeking to rally the troops. They were calling upon them to come fight in the name of the Lord. Today, our circumstances are much the same, as the tide of wickedness surges around us.

The Ongoing Battle

Let's look at just a few examples of this ongoing spiritual battle. In our legal system, new laws are being passed that restrict the freedom of the Gospel. In education, our public system upholds secular humanism—and even atheism. In the sciences, men like

Richard Dawkins declare that anyone with a theistic worldview is automatically disqualified as a scientist because only those with a mental deficiency believe in God. In politics, many leaders promote a godless agenda, boldly speaking out against the Bible and faith in Christ. Much of our popular literature today has an anti-Christian thread running through it. More and more books are being written that are fictional, yet they're purporting to some extent to be historical and are intended to undermine the Christian faith. The *Da Vinci Code* is one example. We see similar trends in the media, in the arts—need I go on? The battle is raging.

Our Call for Help

This is a great struggle, and a call for help is going out. We need gifted and capable Christian men and women who are in these particular realms—law, education, science, the arts—to use their gifts and positions for the glory of God and for the expansion of His kingdom. However, many Christian people don't think in those terms. Why not?

Did you know that Islam has the goal of world conquest? That is their stated objective: to conquer the world for Allah. Not only do they have the goal of doing it, they have a strategy to accomplish it. Anyone who disagrees with them should be slaughtered or enslaved (Quran 4:89, 47:4); and they must wage war until everyone professes faith in Allah (Quran 8:39). They have an aggressive agenda to take over this nation and every nation; those who say otherwise have their heads in the sand.

The Marxists are working hard to spread their communistic and socialistic doctrines. They've infiltrated the universities in the western world, and they are training up newer generations of young people to think with a Marxist worldview.

The cults have long been aggressive in spreading their deceptive doctrines around

the world. When we traveled into Russia in 1990 right after the Soviet Union had broken up and the Iron Curtain was down, we found that the cults had beaten us in—not just with their people, but with their literature. It had already been translated and was being distributed. I remember thinking, *What are we doing? Why are we so far behind?* Quite often, we have no strategy, no plan, and no commitment to furthering the kingdom of God. We are happy to be saved and enjoy our nice, comfortable lives.

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A Fresh Determination

But we can't do that—especially now. Although it would be nice to live in comfort and peace, hoping all of the deception and wickedness in our culture will just go away, it won't. This is a battle. Of course, we're not called to take over the world, but what are we called to do? We are called to preach the Gospel and to make disciples of all of the nations. We are called to lead people to Christ and to build them up in the faith. And if that's going to happen, our attitude needs to be just as determined as the Muslims or the Marxists or the cultists to spread our message. We have a job to get done.

Paul the apostle had this kind of mentality. He described himself as one who labored to the point of exhaustion to spread the Gospel and build the church. And in the next issue, we will look at Paul's objective and his strategy. We'll also consider those in our culture who are already using their gifts and talents to answer the call for help. ☞