

“CURSE YE MEROZ”

Introduction:

1. In the midst of a song of victory, it is interesting to find a curse pronounced.
2. Yet, in the case of Israel’s victory over the army of Sisera, the curse is appropriate.
3. Also, it teaches an important lesson for all followers of God...

I. The Sin of Meroz

- A. On the day of battle, there were some who did not come to fight for Israel.
 1. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, East Manasseh (Gilead), Dan and Asher refused to help (5:15-17).
 2. This was in spite of the fact that the other tribes were risking their fortunes and lives to deliver Israel from oppression (5:18).
- B. However, the city of Meroz is singled out for a curse because they refused to help the Lord in the battle.
- C. The sin of Meroz was the sin of **NEUTRALITY**.
 1. When the battle comes, each individual must choose sides.
 2. In the battle between right and wrong, good and evil, God and Satan, Heaven and Hell, one cannot be neutral without sinning!
 3. To be neutral is to neglect one’s duty (Matt. 12:30; 7:21; Jam. 4:17).
 4. When we know the Lord’s will, we must be active in carrying it out.
- D. The sin of Meroz was the sin of **LUKEWARMNESS**.
 1. They desired to be neither for nor against Israel or Canaan.
 2. This kind of wavering indecision and indifference sickens the Lord (Revelation 3:14-16).
 3. The faithful will choose the side of right and stand in the day of battle (Ephesians 6:10-14).
- E. The sin of Meroz was the sin of **NEGLECT**.
 1. The people of Meroz were presented with an opportunity to do good.
 2. Yet, their failure to act resulted in an opportunity missed.
 3. By neglecting the occasion God had placed before them, they failed to do their duty and help the cause of the Lord (1 Cor. 16:13).
 4. As difficult as it is to believe, God needs man’s help – for, this is how He has chosen to work in His world (Luke 1:35-38; Acts 9:10-18).

II. The Attitude of Meroz

- A. It is clear that Meroz committed a great sin against God, but what led them to do such a thing?
- B. Their sin came from an attitude of **FALSE HUMILITY**.
 1. Perhaps they thought, “What can I do?”
 2. Maybe they wondered, “Surely, God does not need me. Who am I to help the Lord?”
 3. Humility is a virtue; false humility is deadly to one’s soul!
 4. “False humility causes spiritual paralysis (Matthew 25:24-27)!”
- C. Their sin came from an attitude of **FEAR**.
 1. Cowardice stops many from faithful service to the Lord.
 2. Fear is not to be found in the servants of Christ (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 2:11-12; Phil. 1:14; Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 1:7-8; 1 Jn. 4:18; Rev. 21:8).
 3. In Christ, we have nothing to fear (Heb. 13:6; Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:31).
- D. Their sin came from an attitude of **FAINTNESS**.

Judges 5:23

1. Perhaps, the people of Meroz were too lazy to fight (cf. Matt. 25:1-13).
2. Maybe they had seen too many battles and had grown weary.
3. Christians must fight against the attitude of faintness (Gal. 6:9-10; 2 Thes. 3:13; 2 Cor. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:3).

III. The Curse of Meroz

- A. The curse came from the angel of the Lord – *it was God's will.*
- B. The curse was repeated by Deborah – *she did not neglect to tell the truth.*
- C. The curse is still valid today (cf. Acts 5; Matt. 25:28-30; 2 Thes. 1:7-9).
- D. ***It is the curse of uselessness!***

Conclusion: *Heaven will be filled with faithful workers. Will you be there?*

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.