

The book of Judges recounts the cycles of human behavior that result from insincere repentance. The Israelites fall out of faithfulness into oppression, and when they realize their sin, repent and a savior is sent.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES[4:1-7]**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

*The Word of the Lord.*

## PSALM 123

- <sup>1</sup> To you I lift up my eyes, \*  
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- <sup>3</sup> So our eyes look to the LORD our God, \*  
until he show us his mercy.
- <sup>4</sup> Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, \*  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- <sup>5</sup> Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
and of the derision of the proud.

The Thessalonians, and we ourselves, are called to live according to God's perspective of creation rather than the temptation to the sleepiness of this world.

**A READING FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> THESSALONIANS [5:1-11]**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*The Word of the Lord.*