



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 37”

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The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 37

Judges 4:9

9 So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

We attend Church to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so that we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

Our takeaway point in this series on the Biblical Design of Gender is that God has designed man as the cooperative coalition of husband and wife so that man can successfully achieve the objective that God has given us to exercise dominion over the earth, developing wisdom and knowledge in preparation for further responsibility in our eternal life.

In our last lesson, the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and began their conquest of the Promised Land with the capture of the town of Jericho. God instructed Joshua, the leader of Israel, in **Joshua 1:7-8**:

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

The Lord gave the Israelites specific instructions as to how to live to conquer the Promised Land, And the Law of Moses told Israel, in **Exodus 23:19**:
19 The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

Jericho was the firstfruits of the Israelite conquest of the Promised Land. **Joshua 6:17-19** instructed Israel:

17 Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.



19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.”

21 And [the Israelites] utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

The Israelites only saved the possessions belonging to the woman that cooperated with the spies and the vessels to go into the Lord’s treasury because of the instructions of God. The Israelites had no power to knock down the walls of Jericho; they had to rely on God the Father to do so. It is a tenet of familial relationships that the one that has the responsibility makes the rules.

On a particular occasion, a certain adolescent young lady was complaining to her school counselor about her parents. “My parents just aren’t fair”, said the young lady, “and their rules are terrible. They tell me who I can hang out with, and how much time I can spend on my phone.”

“Well, they are your parents”, replied the counselor. “Don’t you think that they know more about life than you do?”

“Life was different when they were kids”, said the girl, “They didn’t have texting. How can they know how many messages I need in a day? They told me 50, and that’s not nearly enough.”

“Let me ask you”, replied the counselor. “Who pays the bill for your cell phone?”

“Well, they pay the bill, but I would pay it if they didn’t want to”, replied the girl.

“With what money?” said the counselor. “Do you have a job?”

“Well, I babysit for the neighbors sometime. I could use that money”, replied the girl.

“Every month? Do you earn enough to pay for your phone every month, do you think?” asked the counselor. “How much is your phone bill?”

“My parents have a family plan”, said the girl, “and my phone is \$5 per month.”

“Young lady”, said the counselor, “your phone is only \$5 per month because your parents are paying for the rest of the bill. If you had your own phone, you’d have to pay the whole bill, which would be closer to \$40 per month or more. Could you afford that?”

“I probably could if I skipped lunch or brought a lunch from home”, replied the girl.

“Where do you get your lunch money?” asked the counselor.

“Uh, from my parents”, replied the girl.

“So, if you brought a lunch from home, why would they give you lunch money?” asked the counselor. “So you would have to get money from your parents and then skip lunch every day? How could you learn in the afternoon if you were hungry?”



“Well, I’d figure something out”, said the girl.

“Let me explain how life works”, said the counselor. “The one that has the responsibility gets to make the rules. Right now, your parents have the responsibility for you. They are responsible for your housing, the car that you borrow, they make sure that they have homeowners, car and health insurance in case you need to see a doctor, they buy your clothes and shoes, and pay for your cell phone and whatever else you have. Since your parents have all the responsibility, they get to make the rules.

“But, if you don’t like your parent’s rules, your alternative is to move out of their house and live on your own. As soon as you take responsibility for your own life, you can do whatever you want to do. Once you move out, you can talk and text all day, hang out all night and party to your hearts content, because you will be responsible to and for yourself. You’ll just have to get money and pay your bills on your own, because your parents will not be responsible for you. So don’t complain about your parents’ rules. In their house, they get to make the rules. All you have to do is move into your own house, and then you can make the rules. Do you understand?”

“But how can I move? I can’t get a job”, said the girl.

The counselor sighed. “You could at least try”, the counselor said, “but if you don’t think you can move, it would be smart thing to be grateful that your parents are taking responsibility for you and then just follow your parent’s rules.

Proverbs 30:17 says:

17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

“Did you know that your parents don’t owe you a cell phone, but are giving you a phone as a gift. Think of everything that they give you, including food and clothing, a roof over your head and your cell phone as a gift and be grateful. If you don’t feel grateful, then move out of their house and gratitude will not be an issue for you. Eating might, but gratitude won’t.”

“Your parents love you, so they take care of you in the style to which you are accustomed. But parents don’t have to take care of their children past food and clothing. Some parents don’t. The parents that do are giving their children a wonderful gift and the children should be grateful.

“So, I should be grateful for 50 texts a day when other kids get to text as much as they want?” asked the girl.

“Yes”, said the counselor. “There are some kids that don’t have cell phones. They can’t text at all. So be grateful for the gift of 50 texts per day that your parents have given you and realize that you will always have more than some and less than others. And if 50 texts are not enough for you, you can always get your own job, place to live, food, insurance and cell phone, and then nobody can tell you to ever stop texting, as long as you pay the bill. If you want the power, you have to take the responsibility.”



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Gratitude for that which we have will help us to not forget the Lord, as **Deuteronomy 6:10-12** tells us:

10 “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant— when you have eaten and are full—

12 then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

The Bible tells us of the benevolence of God, in **James 1:17**:

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

And when God withdraws His gifts from us, we find ourselves in terrible shape. **Joshua 6:27, 7:2-5** tells us:

27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.”

4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Israel’s power to defeat the people of the Promised Land did not come from their military prowess, but from the gift of the power of God. God brought down the walls of Jericho and allowed the Israelites to strike down the people of Jericho with the sword, but God did not allow the Israelites to defeat the people of Ai. Why? God told Joshua, in **Joshua 7:11-12**:

11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.



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God is the model of a good parent. God knows that we, His children, will be spoiled if He doesn't discipline us. **Proverbs 22:15, 29:15** tells us:

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

And it is important for us to understand that there are no children that are innately good. **Psalm 58:3** tells us:

3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

So children are born into the ranks of the wicked and children that are indulged but not disciplined never leave those ranks. **Proverbs 19:18, 13:24** tells us:

18 Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Chastening may save children. We are all born sinners, but there is a hope that chastening will be effective at saving us and keeping us from destruction. And Israel is God's child. **Exodus 4:22** tells us:

22 Then you, [Moses], shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

And foolishness is bound up in the heart of Israel. God used the rod of correction on Israel at Ai to show Israel the wisdom of obeying Him. To find out which person was disobedient, God told Joshua to line up the tribes the next morning, and cast lots over them, and the tribe upon whom the lot fell was the tribe that sinned. Then Joshua was to cast lots over all the clans in the tribe, and the clan upon whom the lot fell was the clan that sinned. And the lot casting was to continue over smaller and smaller groups until the individual sinner was exposed. **Joshua 7:18-21** records:

18 Then [Carmi] brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

Thirty-six Israelites killed in the battle with Ai because of two hundred and



fifty shekels and a garment. **Joshua 7:24-25** records:

24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

25 And Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

In the succeeding battle with Ai after the death of the sinner Achan, the Israelites successfully destroyed the people of Ai and plundered their land. Then, Joshua performed a ceremony to make sure that all of the Israelites knew the content of their relationship with God. **Joshua 8:34-35** records:

34 And afterward [Joshua] read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

After conquering about half of the Promised Land, Joshua sent men into the remainder of the land to map it so that it could be apportioned among the seven tribes that had not completed the conquest of their territory. Then Joshua, as his last official act as the leader of the children of Israel, challenged Israel to follow God, as **Joshua 24:14-18, 26-29** tells us that Joshua said:

14 “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

16 So the people answered and said: “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

17 for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

18 And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.”

26 Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

27 And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness



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to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.”

28 So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

29 Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.

And after Joshua's death, the war with the Canaanites continued, as **Judges 1:1-2, 19** says:

1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, “Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?”

2 And the LORD said, “Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand.”

19 So the LORD was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron.

Just as the Israelites failed against Ai, they failed against the inhabitants of the lowlands. But the Israelites did not repent as they did under Joshua. **Judges 1:28** tells us:

28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.

Israel made the conscious decision that was better to hang onto the Canaanites who were paying them than to drive the Canaanites out of the land. So, in **Judges 2:1-3**:

1 Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.

2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

3 Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ”

Since Israel had such miraculous experiences with and worshipped the Lord, how could the gods of the people of the land ensnare them? **Judges 2:10** records:

10 When all that generation [of Joshua's contemporaries] had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Remember how the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph led to the destruction of Egypt? As I said earlier, we are all born sinners, but there is hope that chastening will be effective at saving us and keeping us from destruction. Children must be trained to follow God. We can see, in our own generation that, generally speaking, younger people are secular their thinking if they are not



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trained to be Christian. And this was the case with the nation of Israel. **Judges 2:11-12** tells us:

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

You may remember the case of Israel worshipping the Baal of Peor at Acacia Grove. The worship of Baal has an extraordinary pull, because, as **Numbers 25** told us, the act of Baal worship is sexual intercourse with a ritual prostitute. The sexual component of idol worship sells much better than the worship of God, which is the reason that **Numbers 25** recorded God's admonition that the children of Israel to not try to coexist with the people of the land in the first place. But, although God admonished the people to not forsake their study of the book of the Law, the people did so, and due to their lack of knowledge, the people forgot the real reason that they were to destroy the people of the Land, forgot that they were not to worship Baal, and also forgot about God. The Israelites became so arrogant as to forget that their conquests in the Promised Land were the work of God, thinking that they could coexist with the Canaanites by becoming like them. So **Judges 2:14** tells us:

14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

Israel was a nation that could only win a battle through their reliance on the power of God. So the Nation of Israel soon fell to their enemies, and their punishment caused them to reflect on their abandonment of God and to groan and cry out to Him, much like that young woman we discussed earlier would have done had she gone out on her own. And although God heard Israel's cry and rescued them, Israel didn't really learn from their mistakes. **Judges 2:16, 19** records:

16 Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

So this problem became an intergenerational problem. Generation after generation and tribe after tribe of the nation of Israel were not trained in the Law of God, so they forsook God to worship Baal. Then they were enslaved, and



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cried out to God for a judge to save them. The judge brought the tribe back to Law of God, but they did not train their children, who repeated the cycle.

By the fourth chapter of the book of Judges, the nation had broken down once again, and this time, God called a woman to judge Israel for a very specific reason. **Judges 4:2, 4-7** tells us:

2 So the LORD sold [Israel] into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand’?”

So Deborah gives Barak the marching orders from God. Barak’s responds in **Judges 4:8**:

8 And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!”

This is the wrong response. When called by God, Isaiah said, in **Isaiah 6:8**:

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

When Jesus was called on by God to go to the Cross, He prayed, in **Luke 22:42**,

42 saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

When men are given their marching orders from God, they are generally not supposed to call on women, other than their wives, to go with them to do God’s will. Men are certainly not supposed to take women into a known battleground situation. But Barak did so, and was rebuked by God and Deborah in our text. **Judges 4:9** records:

9 So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Why was Barak afraid to go into battle without Deborah? Well, because Deborah was the judge. The judge was the one that told people what thus saith



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the Lord. How? **Joshua 1:8** tells us:

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

The judges in Israel could judge for two reasons: one, they had a copy of the book of the Law to which they could refer, and two, they referred to their copy of the book of the Law. Deborah knew, objectively, that **Joshua 19:17** said:

17 The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families.

22 And the border reached to Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh; their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages.

23 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities and their villages.

And the Tabor in **Judges 4:6** was the same Tabor to which **Joshua 19:22** referred. So Deborah was telling Barak to take the Land that the Lord promised to the tribe of Issachar during the time of Joshua, in fulfillment of prophecy. So Deborah is not making any great mystical leap, but is merely calling on the Lord to do that which He promised, and on Barak and the ten thousand to be the instrument of that policy.

But Barak, as the leader of the tribe of Issachar, could have had a copy of the Book of the Law, and God instructed him to have one. But he chose to not invest in the Word, and relied on Deborah to tell him that which thus saith the Lord. And, since Deborah was the one that meditated in the Law and Deborah showed her faith by going to the front with Barak, Deborah was the one that God chose to honor. So, although God says that the husband is the head of the wife, when the husband abdicates his responsibilities, God will use the wife to get the job done. Deborah shows us that God will use whomever is willing to say, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

The Lord is still keeping promises in this day and time. He says, in **John 3:16-17**:

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

And, in our dispensation, to overthrow the idolatrous king that has us enslaved does not require ten thousand men, but, as **Romans 10:9-10** tells us:

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Just as God promised Mount Tabor to Barak and the tribe of Issachar,



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God has promised eternal life to us. Jesus Christ died so that our sins might be forgiven and that we might have a right, through faith in His name, to eternal life. So let us, as **1 Timothy 6:12** tells us:

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The good confession is that of faith in Jesus Christ. Let us not let His gospel depart from our mouths, but let us meditate in it, day and night. For then He will make our way prosperous, and then we will have good success.

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