

God Leads Through Deborah

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

Judges 4:4-10, 12-16

BIBLE TRUTH:

Women were created to rule and dominate in the earth realm just like the man. Gen. 1:26-28,

MEMORY VERSE:

And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. Judges 4:4

Lesson Aim

That each student both male and female will realize how important it is to hear the voice of God for themselves and obey. Rev. 2:10-12, John 10:1-5

Introduction

- Deborah's role in Israel's victory started with her being in touch with the will of God, hearing the message God gave her for Israel's good. Because God has given mankind delegated authority in the earth, he must honor his arrangement. He must work through someone and so he seeks out those that will let Him work through them. Deborah is such a person in Israel's history. So when we are properly tuned, we each, through the medium of prayer, have the ability to be use of God for the building of his kingdom in the earth. Luke 11:1-3, 2Chron 7:14
- After 20 years of suffering under the domination of the Canaanites, Isreal began to turn back to God through prayer and repenting of their wayward ways and asking the Lord for deliverance. Little did they know that God would use a woman to lead them. Jer.31:21-23
- As brought out in the Bible truth, before the fall, men and women had equal rights to rule in the earth realm. It wasn't until after the fall women were give a subordinate role. Gen. 3:16
- Jesus through his redemptive role restored or reconciled the male female divide at the cross. Gal. 3:27-28, Col 1:20
- Though Barak is listed as a man of faith in Heb 11:32, we see him here as a man who had to depend upon a woman for victory; In fact, God used two women to deliver the Jews. Judges 4:18-24._

A Woman In A Leadership Role

- Judges 4:4-5 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. [5] And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.
- Deborah is introduced as a prophetess, wife and a Judge in Israel. Her name meant “bee” and busy she was wearing all these hats.
- God used this woman who could hear the voice of her God. As a prophetess she represented God's voice to Israel; As a judge she represented God’s justice in correcting social abuses, and settling personal grievances.
- Deborah conducted her business under the palm trees having the same name as her. The fact that people come to her for judgment indicates that Deborah's judging is what we would call today binding arbitration. It is doubtful she dealt with criminal cases. These cases were usually resolved at the city gates. Deu. 17:5
- The two disputing parties would agree to abide by her decision before it was given, perhaps having been sent by the elders of a village or city. Deborah likely receives a fee for each judgment.
- Such a system would have no strict legal bases, because there is no king or government to appoint and validate Deborah authority. Her authority came from God through her obedience. 1Peter 5:5-7

A Woman Prophecies

- [6] And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? [7] And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.
- As a leader of people, Deborah's role extended beyond maintaining an outdoor courtroom. She recognized a crisis among her people and summons a man who can do what she cannot; lead an army into battle. This man is Barak from the city of Kedesh which was one of the cities of refuge. Joshua 21:32
- By God's direction, she ordered Barak to raise an army, and engage Jabin's forces, the army of the Canaanites. Barak led 10,000 men from Mt. Tabor, trusting the promise of God given by His servant, Deborah
- For 20 years the Canaanites oppressed Israel, so God raised up this prophetess to lead the way to victory. First she called Barak to deliver the nation. 4:1-7 and she even gave him the battle plan from the Lord.
- Usually the Kishon river bed was dry; but God was going to send a great storm that would flood the river bed and trap the chariots of iron. Judges 5:20-22
-

A Man Confidence By A Woman

- [8] And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. [9] And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.
- Barak's response to Deborah's request must have set her back. It was not customary for a woman to go into military campaigns. Why would Barak insist that Deborah go with him before he agreed to go?
- Deborah promised to go with him. She would not send him where she would not go herself. Those who in God's name call others to their duty, should be ready to assist them in it.
- We do not know whether Barak wanted her there as an assurance of God's presence in the battle or whether he was afraid. He showed a lack of trust in God, though. Israel had fallen in such a backslidden condition that God was doing a new thing in Israel. Jer.31:21-23
- Deborah knew God would be displeased. As we see, she agreed to go into battle with Barak, but she also prophesied that he would not get the honor for winning this battle. Instead, honor would go to a woman.

Barak Obeys The Voice Of A Woman

- [10] And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him. [12] And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. [13] And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.
- Israel didn't have a standing army at this time in history. They had to call for Israel's volunteer army located in Zebulum and Naphtali to assemble in Kedesh. These volunteers would bring their own weapons and their own tents, food and other provisions. So it is with the church today, we have the largest volunteer army in the world.
- The Bible does not say who they were, that showed Sisera were Barak was camped, but they were probably spies that told Sisera that Barak was at Mount Tabor.
- Sisera immediately gathered together all of his iron chariots, numbering nine hundred. These iron chariots represent the strongest and most sophisticated military force of that day. Sisera's confidence was chiefly in his chariots. However, Sisera was in for a big surprise, he had underestimated his opponent.

Barak Obeys The Voice Of A Woman

- [14] And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.
- Deborah ordered Barak and his volunteer army to go, and promised them the victory. So at the words of Deborah, Barak went down, knowing that upon the plain, the iron chariots would have advantage against him: he descended from the mountain in dependence on the Lord to fight their battle. for in the Lord alone is the salvation of his people, Jer 3:23.
- We as believers must learn that living a victorious life is not a work but a gift. Believers never fight from a position of gaining or working for the victory but receiving the victory by faith and then fighting the fight of faith to hold on to it. 1Cor. 15:57-58
- He was not deceived in his confidence. When God goes before us in our spiritual conflicts, we must move into position; and when, by his grace, he gives us some success against the enemies of our souls, we must learn to thank God and give him the glory for the victory. Col. 1:27

The Lord Shows Up and Shows Out

- [15] And the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. [16] But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.
- Suddenly, God sent a big storm, which caused flooding on the battleground. Mud bogged down the chariot wheels. Sisera soldiers began to flee on foot. For now the odds were 10 to 1 in favor of Barak and his army of 10,000. Israel routed their enemy killing every single soldier.
- Sisera's chariots had been his pride and his confidence. Thus are those disappointed who put their hope in the might of men and not in God. Zech. 4:5-7
- If God is to go before us, all our connections with God's enemies must be broken off, if He is to be our God, and we are to be his people. 2Cor. 6:17-7:1
- As believers we must not never be dismayed or discouraged by the attacks of Satan, for God has already given us the victory. We must be willing to fight the fight of faith; for the battle is not yours but the Lords. 1Sam. 17:47, 2Chron. 20:15