

A Dauntless Leader

- The time of "Judges"—between 1350 BC to 1050 BC
- **Deborah** was one of these unusual, charismatic leaders who emerged in a time of great distress to lead God's people spiritually and politically.

Chapter 4:1-5 (Prose)

"(v.1) After Ehud's death, the Israelites again did evil in the Lord's sight. (v.2) So the Lord turned them over to King Jabin of Hazor, a Canaanite king. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-haggoyim. (v.3) Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots, ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

(v.4) Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time. (v.5) She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment. (v.6) One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali."

Judges 4:1-5 (NLT)

Chapter 5:1-12 (Poetry)

"That day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

When they let down their hair in Israel,
They let it blow wild in the wind.
The people volunteered with abandon,
bless GOD!

Hear O kings! Listen O princes!
To GOD, yes to GOD, I'll sing,
Make music to GOD,
to the God of Israel.

GOD, when you left Seir,
marched across the field of Edom,
Earth quaked, yes, the skies poured rain,
Oh, the clouds made rivers.
Mountains leapt before GOD, the Sinai God,
before GOD, the God of Israel.

In the time of Shamgar son of Anath,
and in the time of Jael,
Public roads were abandoned,
travelers went by backroads.
Warriors became fat and sloppy,
no fight left in them.
Then you, Deborah, rose up;
you got up, a mother in Israel.
God chose new leaders,
who then fought at the gates.
And not a shield or spear to be seen
among the forty companies of Israel.

Lift your hearts high, O Israel,
With abandon, volunteering yourselves with the people—
bless GOD!

You who ride on prize donkeys
comfortably mounted on blankets
And you who walk down the roads,
ponder, attend!
Gather at the town well
and listen to them sing
Chanting the tale of GOD's victories,
his victories accomplished in Israel.

Then the people of GOD
went down to the city gates.
Wake up, wake up, Deborah!
Wake up, wake up, sing a song!
On your feet, Barak!
Take your prisoners, son of Abinoam!"
Judges 5:1-12 (NLT)

THE SCRIPTURE TEACHES . . .

- ❖ God does gift women for ***SPIRITUAL*** leadership!
- ❖ Women and ***MEN*** can work together for the Lord!
- ❖ Deborah maintained her ***RELATIONSHIPS*** with her husband, family, fellow Jews.
- ❖ Deborah had a strong, vibrant, living ***RELATIONSHIP*** with God! She put the Lord first in her life, and everything else came together beautifully!