

BOOK OF JUDGES
THE CYCLE CONTINUES-#3—PT 2
GOD RAISES UP DEBORAH AND BARAK
JUDGES 4:10-24; 5:1-31

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Introduction

We began last week looking at **ISRAEL'S THIRD CYCLE** of **FAILURE** recorded in **Judges 4:1-24** as the **LORD** elevated and used a couple of women here **because of a FAILURE of ISRAEL'S men to step up and be men!**

We met one of those women last week, **DEBORAH**, who was used by the **LORD** in great ways, for **HIS GLORY**. Tonight we will meet the other.

We're sticking with the same outline as previous **CYCLES** because **"it is like deja vu all over again!"** The **CYCLE** remains the same, only the details such as the **NAMES** have changed. Last week:

I. WE SAW ISRAEL'S SIN. (Vs 1) That's how it always began...

II. WE SAW THE SUFFERING AND SERVITUDE. (Vs 2, 3b)

III. WE SAW THE SUPPLICATION. (Vs 3a)

IV. WE BEGAN TO SEE THE SAVIOUR (THE DELIVERER).

(vs. 4-24)

A. We Saw DEBORAH'S POSITION! (vs. 4-5)

The **BIBLE** is very clear; **DEBORAH** was both a **"PROPHETESS"** and a **"JUDGE"**.

The word "JUDGED" lets us know that she settled disputes among the people of ISRAEL, Vs 5.

They came to her with their problems and she rendered JUDGMENT. Also, in a very real sense, DEBORAH was the leader of the nation during those dark days.

We were looking at how the LORD also used DEBORAH in a very real way as a JUDGE to DELIVER HIS people from the BONDAGE and OPPRESSION brought on by their SIN!

B. We Saw DEBORAH'S PROPHECY! (vs. 6-7)

DEBORAH received a WORD from the LORD and so she called BARAK, to take 10,000 men and go to war with the enemy. The LORD PROMISED to DEFEAT SISERA, the CANAANITE general. The LORD GOD promised a great victory, if they would simply TRUST HIM and go to war!

C. We Saw DEBORAH'S PROBLEM! (vs. 8-9)

DEBORAH had a WORD from the LORD. She shared that WORD with BARAK, and found that BARAK was reluctant to follow that WORD. He was willing to go to battle, but only if DEBORAH would go with him. She agreed to go, but told him that since he depended on a woman, the LORD was going to use a woman to take out SISERA!

That's where we left off, so we pick up in **verse 10** tonight:

D. We See DEBORAH'S PARTNER! (vs. 10-24)

HER PARTNER, BARAK, and part of **ISRAEL** went to war with **SISERA** and the **CANNANITES**. **BARAK** got 10,000 from his own tribe of **NAPHTALI** and the neighboring tribe of **ZEBULON**, **Judges 4:6, 10; 5:18**.

Later, it appears that the ranks swelled to 40,000, **5:8**, with volunteers from **BENJAMIN, EPHRAIM, MANASSEH**, and **ISSACHAR, 5:14-15a**. Some of the tribes refused to come, **5:15b-17**, but those who did come saw the **LORD** give them a great **VICTORY**.

Considering the fact that **ISRAEL** had **no shields or spears, 5:8**, and no standing army, what **BARAK** and **DEBORAH** did was by an amazing **ACT OF FAITH!** They **TRUSTED** the **LORD** and **HE** gave **ISRAEL** a great **VICTORY!**

4:15 tells us that the **LORD "discomfited" SISERA** and his armies. **Judges 5:21** tells us what happened. As they sought to fight **ISRAEL**, the **LORD** allowed the **KISHON RIVER** to overflow its banks, the 900 iron chariots of **SISERA** became stuck in the mud and the **SOLDIERS** were swept away by the currents! They were chased and killed with the edge of the sword! All of the soldiers of **SISERA** were slain, **4:15-16**.

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Seeing that his army was defeated, **SISERA** fled for his life from the battlefield on foot. He went to the tent of a man named **HEBER**, who was of the **KENITES**. The **KENITES** were a people group that aligned themselves with **ISRAEL**. This particular family, however, had turned on the rest of the tribe and took sides with **SISERA** and his army.

So, **SISERA** fled to the tent of **HEBER** thinking that he would find refuge there. **HEBER'S** wife **JAEL** greeted **SISERA** and invited him into her tent. **JAEL** appeared to be willing to help him hide from his pursuers! *4:17-18*

SISERA asked **JAEL** for a drink of water. She brought him a drink of milk instead. *4:19*

The offer of milk served two purposes:

First, it eased the mind of SISERA. He was convinced that he had entered the tent of a friend and that he was safe. In fact, he asked **JAEL** to lie for him! *4:20*

Second, the milk would possibly help him fall asleep. He was already tired from the battle and fleeing the battlefield! When he drank the milk and lay down in the darkness, it wasn't long until sleep overtook him. While he slept, **JAEL** took one of the tent nails and drove it through **SISERA'S** head, killing him! *4:21*

In that culture, it was the woman's responsibility to put up and take down the tents. So, **JAEL** was used to swinging that hammer. This woman was not stupid! When she saw **SISERA** come to her tent on foot, she knew that he had to have been defeated in battle.

She also knew that if she was caught hiding him in her tent, she might be put to death with him when **BARAK** found them.

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She saw that **ISRAEL** had come out on top in the battle and she wanted to be found on the right side when the dust settled. So it appears that **JAEL** was a wise woman!

Let's stop here and let me say a word about women in the **CHURCH**. I thank **GOD** for the women who belong to **HIM!** They are not second class saints. **GODLY** women fulfill a vital role in **HIS** work.

If all the women were removed from the average local **CHURCH**, I feel certain that the work of many, if not most **CHURCHES** would grind to a halt.

Women hold a vital place in the work of the local **CHURCH**. The **GODLY** women in every **CHURCH** exert tremendous influence on the children in the **CHURCH**. I thank **GOD** for the **GODLY**, active women in **CHURCHES!**

III. WE SEE THE SILENCE (OR REST)! 5:1-31

A. First There Was The Sweet Music Of Victory!

The **VICTORY** over **SISERA** and his army resulted in **DEBORAH** and **BARAK** launching into a song the words of which are recorded for us in *chapter 5*. It is a **SONG OF PRAISE** to the **LORD WHO** gave them the **VICTORY** over their enemy!

1. **They Praised The LORD For HIS Virtues! 5:1-12**
The primary thrust of these verses is a refrain of **PRAISE** offered to the **LORD** for **HIS** wonderful works among the people of **ISRAEL**.

2. **They Praised The LORD For HIS Volunteers! 5:13-18**
When the call went out for volunteers, only half the tribes came to fight. The rest refused to go to war.

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In the days of **JOSHUA**, every tribe was expected to fight for the nation, when **BARAK** called for warriors, many would not come.

5:23 – The town of “*Meroz*” was cursed by the Angel of the **LORD** because it refused to help!
(This is the only place in Scripture you find “*Meroz*”)

- 3. They Praised The LORD For His Victory! 5:19-23**
The enemy was defeated by the **POWER** of the **LORD!** **HE** sent the rain and defeated those 900 iron chariots of the **CANAANITES**.

One raindrop may seem to be a tiny, fragile thing, but when it is united with many other raindrops, it becomes a thing of great **POWER**. Just as the **LORD** took the weak raindrops and used them to wash away the enemy; **HE** took the weak army of **ISRAEL** and gave them a great **VICTORY**.

The **LORD** is still the **ONE WHO** gives **VICTORY** even today! *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

- 4. They Praised The LORD For His Vessel! 5:24-31a**
They closed their song by **PRAISING** the **LORD** for using **JAEL**, the woman **HE** used to wack **SISERA**.

Her act of bravery allowed the nation to enjoy the victory.

There Was The Sweet Music Of Victory...

- B. There Was The Sweet Rest After The Victory! (Vs 31b)**
Rest from their enemies was what they had longed for and they cried out to the **LORD** and were obedient to the **LORD**, **HE** gave them the **VICTORY** and the **REST** that came with it!