



## Women of the Bible

### Deborah – Judge & Prophetess of God

#### Lesson 1

Deborah was perhaps one of the strongest women in the Old Testament. She was greatly respected among the Jewish people and they looked to her for leadership and strength. Not only was she known as a judge and a prophetess but she was also known as a wife, a ruler, a warrior and especially as a fearless leader. During her reign women were never expected to be on the battle field. Yet when Barak was summoned to lead the Israelites into battle and refused unless Deborah went with him, she accepted the challenge. God used her to bravely and confidently stand by Barak's side and lead the people into victory. Maybe today you find yourself in a unique position of leadership. Then, like Deborah, arise to the challenge and let your strength be found in the Lord!

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: Judges 4:1-10**

*When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>So the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim. <sup>3</sup>And the children of Israel cried out to the Lord; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup>Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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; <sup>7</sup>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?"<sup>8</sup> 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!"<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him. (Should you want further information regarding Deborah, please read Judges 4 & 5)*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

**The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."**

**Zephaniah 3:17(NKJV)**

1. Deborah is an amazing example of a woman who is not only wise but also faithful and strong. What do the following verses tell us about where her strength came from and likewise where our strength comes from?

a. Psalm 27:1: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. 2 Corinthians 12:9: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Philippians 4:13: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Although we probably won't be called to rule over a nation, we will be called to live godly lives and to be an example to those around us of one whose strength comes from the Lord. How do the above verses help you in this endeavor? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. 2 Timothy 1:7 states that God has not given us a spirit of fear. What else does this verse promise us that can encourage us as we seek His will and His strength? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect and Respond** – Perhaps you are thinking that you have little if any strength to accomplish whatever God may ask of you. Consider what Isaiah 40:28-31 says; “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Simply put, God knows we are weak and He will give us the strength that we need. Does this encourage you? Write your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Result** – Consider today’s bible study lecture. What lesson can you take away from this study and apply to your walk with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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