

Lesson 7 October 30, 2024

Who IS That Woman?

Women in the Bible who got it right and those who didn't

Judge Deborah

Judges 4 & 5

1. After Joshua had led the conquest of most of the Promised Land and the land had been divided among the twelve tribes of Israel, the Israelites entered a time of rest. Toward the end of his life, Joshua gave his farewell address and warned them about the _____. "Israel served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel" (Joshua 24:15, 31).
2. However, after that generation died, the next generation did not _____ nor _____ (Judges 2:10-15).
3. From the time of the exodus, the LORD had warned the Israelites that if they remained _____ to Him, He would _____ them, but if they _____, He would _____ them. During the dark period of the judges, the Israelites _____ through years of disobedience and its awful consequences:
 - They _____ against the Lord, forgetting what He had done for them and worshipping the gods of the Canaanites.
 - God _____ them by using people who were not Israelites.
 - They _____ to the LORD for help.
 - God _____ - to rescue them from their oppressors.
 - They experienced a time of _____ (vv. 16-19).
4. There were **twelve judges** - Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson - who served over a prolonged period.

CANAANITES

King Jabin
Sisera—army commander
Heber the Kenite

ISRAELITES

The LORD
Barak—army commander
Deborah—judge
Jael—wife of Heber

5. During one of the cycles of sin Israel cried to the LORD for help because they were being _____ by one of the Canaanite kings named _____. He and his commander, _____, had dominated the Israelites for _____ with sophisticated weaponry for that day - horses and chariots (2:1-3).

6. At that time, a woman named _____ was leading Israel. She served as a _____, holding court in the central part of Canaan (vv. 4-5).

7. Deborah was also a _____ - a spiritual leadership role. She knew the Israelites were in trouble. During that time, she received _____ and summoned _____, an Israelite military leader. He was in Kedesh. Upon the authority of the LORD, she commanded Barak to _____ from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun and _____, King Jabin's commander. The LORD assured Barak He would _____ for Sisera and Barak would be _____ (vv. 6-7).

8. Barak agreed to obey under one condition - that _____. Certain she knew the LORD had spoken, Deborah _____ but warned Barak that the _____ for the defeat of Sisera would be given to a _____ (v. 9).

9. Deborah accompanied Barak to Kadesh where he quickly recruited 10,000 men for battle (men from the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali). They headed to _____ (v. 10).

10. When Sisera learned that Barak had organized a _____, Sisera, accompanied by his army and nine hundred iron chariots, _____ Barak's army (vv. 12-13).

11. Then Deborah, speaking for the LORD, commanded Barak and his troops to descend the mountain with full assurance the LORD had _____. When the two armies met and engaged in combat, the LORD _____ Sisera's army - threw them in a _____. All of Sisera's troops were _____ and their chariots were _____. However, **Sisera** managed to _____ (vv. 14-16).

12. Sisera fled to the tent of an **assumed friend**, _____, because her husband had a **good relationship with King Jabin**. Jael greeted Sisera warmly, invited him in, and offered him a _____. Exhausted and thirsty, Sisera asked for a drink of _____. Instead, Jael gave him _____ and tucked him in tightly. He asked Jael to **stand guard at the door**. Thinking he was **safe and secure**, Sisera fell fast asleep (vv. 17-20).

13. Little did Sisera know whom he was dealing with because, when Jael was sure he was asleep, she sneaked in and _____ by driving a _____ and into the ground (v. 21).
14. Naturally, Barak was _____ for Sisera. When Barak came near Jael's tent, she said, "I think I have the man you are looking for." She took Barak inside and _____ - dead and pinned to the ground (v. 22).
15. Because the LORD had fought for the Israelites, they were able to increase in strength until they **completely destroyed** Jabin, the Canaanite king who had oppressed them for twenty years. "Then the land had peace for forty 40 years (v. 23-24, 5:31).

What can I learn from Deborah?



I have a platform – an _____ - and if I choose to _____, to be _____, to act _____, and to _____, God can use me in a powerful way to accomplish His will.



"The LORD _____ those he loves.... No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening - it's painful! But afterward there will be a _____ for those who are trained in this way" (Hebrews 12:6, 11).



Battles are inevitable, but I can take comfort in knowing I _____.

HOMework

Song: _____ By: Phil Wickham

Review: Review Judges 4 & 5 and look for additional lessons you can learn from Deborah.

Read: Judges 13 - 16