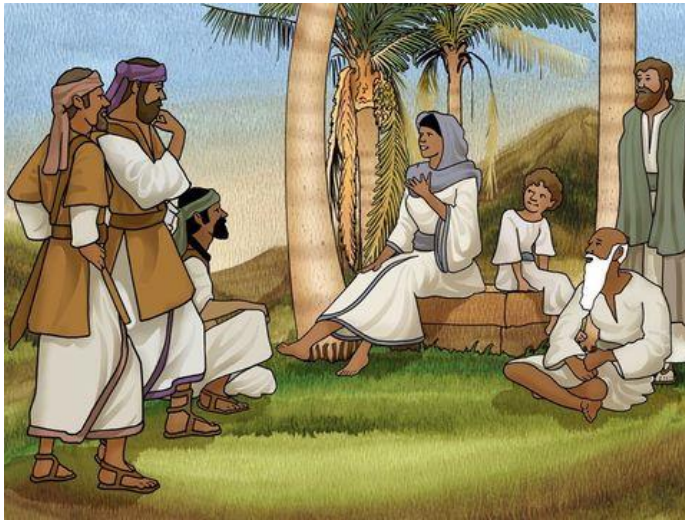




L3.26 “Deborah the Prophetess – Judge of Israel”



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Read Together: In Judges 4, we read that God chose a woman, Deborah, to judge Israel for a period of time. She was well prepared when God called her to be a prophetess and a judge because she knew God’s laws and was wise in their execution. God told Deborah to send for Barak and tell him to fight against their oppressors – Jabin, king of Canaan and Sisera, the commander of his army. Barak responded that he would only go if Deborah went with him. Though Deborah knew women did not normally fight in war she agreed to go, but Barak would have to sacrifice the glory of the

victory to a woman. God gave them the battle plan which they executed with precision. Barak along with ten thousand troops from Naphtali and Zebulun soon had Sisera and his troops on the run. They killed them all, but Sisera escaped from the battle to the tent of Jael, a woman whom he thought was an ally. While Sisera slept, she drove a tent peg through his head, and Jael became the heroine of the battle instead of Barak just as Deborah had said. This marked the end of Jabin’s oppression, and Israel had peace for forty years. Yet after all this, Israel again turned to her evil ways.

Read Together: Judges 4:1 – 6:1.

Discuss:

- Discuss with your child the role of a prophet(ess) and the role of a judge. What is the role of women in the Church government structure? (See Ephesians 4:11.)
- Speculate with your child why God might have called a woman to judge Israel at that time. Perhaps she was the best qualified. Remember, God is not a respecter of persons (Romans 2:11).
- Point out to your child that Deborah is not the only prophetess referred to in the scriptures(See Exodus 15:20; 2 Kings 22:14; Isaiah 8:3; Luke 2:36).
- Ask your child why they feel Barak wanted Deborah to go with him to war. Was Barak’s bravery in question? Remember, Barak is listed in the faith chapter of Hebrews 11
- Explain to your child that those born into the family of God are neither male nor female (Galatians 3:28). Everyone will have equal opportunity to serve in the Kingdom of God and and be rewarded based on your works (Matthew 16:27).

Review Memorization:

Judges 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”