

## Judges 4 - 5

### Deborah - The Judge

### Lesson 2

Ehud and Shamgar were effective judges which allowed Israel to live peacefully for 80 years. However, after two generations (the Bible uses the number forty for one generation) once again the cycle of sin begins. The story of Deborah and Barak is given twice, once as a narrative and then again as a song to help Israel remember.

#### **Deborah & Barak - Chapter 4**

1. How does the cycle begin again? (vs. 1)

2. What were the consequences this time? (vs. 2a)

**Note:** Jabin was a title, like pharaoh. For a review of Joshua's battle at Hazor read Joshua 11:1-14.

3. How long did it take Israel to unite together and ask for God's help? (vs. 3)

4. God raised up a woman named Deborah to become Israel's next saving judge. What is recorded about Deborah? (vs. 4, 5)

5. Using a dictionary, define prophet or prophetess.

6. What was the message Deborah sent to Barak in the tribe of Naphtali? (vs. 6, 7)

7. What was Barak's answer? Please comment. (vs. 8)

8. Deborah agreed to his plan but gave a prophecy regarding the upcoming battle. From verses 9 & 10, what did she prophecy?
9. After reading the preceding verses, what do you think Barak may have been thinking with regard to Deborah's words about receiving the honor?
10. God made a strategic move prior to the battle. What piece of information is given in vs. 11?
11. Describe how the battle went in verses 12 - 16.
12. In verse 17 it says that Sisera fled on foot. Where did he go and what was the reason given? (vs. 17)
13. What happened? (vs. 18-21)
14. What was the long term result of this battle? (vs. 23, 24)

### **Song of Deborah - Chapter 5**

15. Songs were given to Israel after major events to help them remember what God had done. This song began by giving the attitude of the people. Describe that attitude & comment. (vs. 2)

16. Who received the honor and praise? (vs. 3 - 5)
17. The Song gives insight into what Israel was like during the days of Shamgar. Please describe. (vs. 6, 7a & 8)
18. What changed? (7 & 9 - 12)
19. The Song recounts which tribes responded to the call of Barak and which did not. Please fill in the following chart using verses 13 - 18

**Note:** Using poetic form, Makir refers to the leading clan of the Transjordan tribe of Manasseh and Gilead refers to the land given to the Transjordan tribe of Gad.

Tribes that responded to the call	Tribes that did not respond

20. The actual battle was described in verses 19-30. Where was the emphasis placed regarding this battle. Comment.
21. How long did this cycle of peace last? (vs. 31)

**Think about it!**

The story in Judges 4 and 5 has been a source of great encouragement to women everywhere who have been gifted to serve God in leadership roles. At this time, when God was about to deliver Israel He chose two people, a man, Barak, who was a great military leader but with questionable faith, and a woman, Deborah who had an unshakable faith in God's ability. Before one is quick to rule out the idea that God uses women in the role of leading His people, think about this story of Israel's Judge Deborah.

God is not looking for physical abilities nor gender, but for a heart turned toward Him. Do you have such a heart? Think about it!

For other prominent women of God see Exodus 15:20, 2 Kings 22:14-20, the book of Esther, Acts 18:18-26 and Romans 16:1.