

WORD

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. ²And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. ³Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

⁴Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. JUDGES 4:1-5

When we look at the people of Israel during the early times, there was a cycle that was happening to them. They will sin and seek God, then God will respond and they will sin again. At this particular time, God did not give a King to Israel to lead them. Instead, God placed a judge to guide them. And so Deborah, a fully devoted prophet of God, and the only woman mentioned in the bible as a judge rise up. Let us look at how God was able to deliver Israel through Deborah's life.

1 Deborah's worship echoes the voice of God

² That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!" ³ Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord, I will sing; I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel." JUDGES 5:2-3

Chapter 5 is a song of the worship Deborah uttered to God in their victory with the enemies. She did not credit it to herself but gave God the glory in the battle they won. She was described in the bible as a woman who devoted herself to God and her faith shows how confident she was that the Lord will deliver them. When we are faced with life

battles, how confident are we in the loving nature of God, who will not leave us nor forsake us?

2 Deborah displayed a willingness to be used by God

⁶ "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways. ⁷ The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. JUDGES 5:6-7

The Bible commends Deborah as not just a wise judge but a humble servant of the Lord who is always ready to serve God's people. She did not see herself as a weak person, a woman who was treated as a minority during their times. Instead, she was confident of who God is, her faith in Him gave her the boldness to speak the truth and the courage to move forward in the direction God has for His people. How do we see ourselves whenever we speak God's word? How willing are we to heed the voice of God whenever it calls for us to serve others?

APPLICATION

- How is our personal time of worship to God? Does it exalt His nature and greatness as the Lord of our lives?
- What practical things can you do this week to intently make time in quieting yourself and devoting your time to God's word?
- How would you show your willingness to serve God's people?

PRAYER

- Pray that each person in the group will have the courage, words, and faith to share what God has done in their lives with others.
- Pray for a deeper hunger for the word of God that you may know Him better.
- Within your group, pray and speak God's purpose and blessing for each other.



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