

Deborah: Courage in a Time of Cowardice!
Unusual Suspects, Pt. 7
Judges 4-5

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Judges 4:21, But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

Judges 4:1, Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD... **2** So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan... **3** Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

What Made Deborah Such a Strong Leader?

1. She Had Courage to Hear and Declare God's WORD

Judges 4:4, Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. **5** She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. **6** She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.'"

Jeremiah 1:7, But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. **8** Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

2. She Had Courage to Confront Spiritual APATHY

Judges 4:7, "I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands." **8** Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

Hebrews 10:24, And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

3. She Had Courage to Lead When Others WOULDN'T

Judges 4:9, "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. **10** There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

Ecclesiastes 4:9, Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: **10** If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

4. She Had Courage to Inspire ACTION

Judges 4:14, Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?" So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. **15** At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. **16** Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

Judges 4:17, Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the

family of Heber the Kenite. **18** Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. **19** "I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water." She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up. **20** "Stand in the doorway of the tent," he told her. "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.'" **21** But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. **22** Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for." So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

Judges 4:23, On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. **24** And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

5. She Praised God for the VICTORY

Judges 5:1, On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: **2** "When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD! **3** Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will praise the LORD, the God of Israel, in song."

Judges 5:9, My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD! **10** "You who ride on white donkeys, sitting on your saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road, consider **11** the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the victories of the LORD, the victories of his villagers in Israel."

Judges 5:13, "The remnant of the nobles came down; the people of the LORD came down to me against the mighty. **14** Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek; Benjamin was with the people who followed you. From Makir captains came down, from Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff. **15** The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; yes, Issachar was with Barak, sent under his command into the valley."

Judges 5:15, In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. **16** Why did you stay among the sheep pens to hear the whistling for the flocks? In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. **17** Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan. And Dan, why did he linger by the ships? Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves.

Judges 5:24, "Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. **25** He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. **26** Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple."

Judges 5:31, "So may all your enemies perish, LORD! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years.

Psalms 150:6, Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

James 1:22, Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.