
WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

-DEBORAH



INTRODUCTION 3

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

- READ/WRITE ENTIRE PASSAGE 5
- UNDERSTANDING THE SETTING 9
- UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTERS 9
- UNDERSTANDING THE KEY EVENTS 10
- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 10
- CULTURAL BACKGROUND 11

DEBORAH'S ROLE

- PROPHETESS AND JUDGE 12
- LEADER 13
- REFLECTION 13

HER ACTIONS AND CONTEXT

- CALLING AND AUTHORITY 14
- MOBILIZING THE PEOPLE..... 14
- BATTLE AND VICTORY 15
- THE SONG OF DEBORAH 16

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

- TIME OF JUDGES 17
- OPPRESSION 17
- ROLE OF WOMEN 18

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- PRAYER 19
- SERVING 19
- REFLECTION 19

INTRODUCTION

JUDGES 4 & 5

Wake Up! Wake Up!!

-Deborah



Deborah was an incredibly busy and dynamic woman, a true force of nature! Judges 4:5 proclaims, *"She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites flocked to her, entrusting their most challenging disputes to her discerning hands."* Deborah was revered for her profound wisdom, revelation, and unmatched discernment. She possessed a remarkable prophetic gift. This gift allowed her to perceive the times and seasons orchestrated by the Lord. With clarity and purpose, she heard the voice of the Lord, guiding her people with conviction and strength!

Yet Judges 5:12 passionately declares, *"Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, Barak! Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam."* This was a powerful moment. Deborah and Barak were summoned to "wake up and arise." They were called to an exhilarating new revelation. It was a vibrant dimension of their divine callings. The Lord was urging them to be fully alert. They needed to be attentive. He was about to move in an extraordinary, life-changing way!

Judges 5:7 proclaims, *"Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel."* Among the multitude of titles Deborah could have claimed – judge, prophetess, deliverer, intercessor, worshiper – she chose the most profound: a mother. Above all, she was a fierce and devoted mother. This truth resonates powerfully. Yet, the identity of her children remains a poignant mystery. She was a mother "in Israel." She was also a mother "over Israel" since both translations are valid. She embraced all of Israel as her cherished children. She longed for each and every one of them – literal and figurative – to bask in the warmth of peace and security.

INTRODUCTION

Notice how the verse reveals that no one in Israel would muster the courage to fight until Deborah “arose.” The Israelites had endured a crushing 20 years of slavery, left weary and disheartened in the face of their oppressors. They were desperate for a spark of inspiration, and the Lord, in His wisdom, chose Deborah to ignite that flame. If she had not bravely embraced her calling, their fate would have remained the same. She acted on the divine message she received. With unwavering faith, she inspired Barak to gather an army. Her authority as a judge set the stage for a powerful transformation.

Deborah was an unstoppable worshipping warrior. She drew immense encouragement and strength from her devotion. She boldly obeyed the Lord's every command. If she had decided to play small, she would

have lost the extraordinary experiences. These experiences empowered her to deliver Israel from the chains of bondage. It was through her unwavering faith that she gained the wisdom and revelation to resolve disputes with divine insight. As an intercessor, she listened intently to the Lord's strategic battle plans, standing as a fierce protector of her people. Her compassionate mother's heart overflowed beyond her family, embracing and uplifted all of Israel. Through her unwavering devotion, she brought healing and empowerment, transforming an entire nation!

Barak was urged to “arise and take captive your captives” (5:12), a call to greatness that stirred his very soul. He hesitated to plunge into battle without the fierce guidance of Deborah by his side. However, his heart ultimately swelled with obedience. He gathered an army and ventured forth to where Deborah boldly commanded him. This courageous step of unwavering fidelity was not merely an act of valor. It was a divine necessity. It was a sacred duty to fulfill the remarkable plans of the Lord.



JUDGES 4

4 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. 2 So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. 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.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading[a] 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. 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."

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.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

12 When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

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. 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

JUDGES 4

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.

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.

JUDGES 5: SONG OF DEBORAH

5 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.

4 “When you, Lord, went out from Seir,
when you marched from the land of Edom,
the earth shook, the heavens poured,
the clouds poured down water.

5 The mountains quaked before the Lord, the One of Sinai,
before the Lord, the God of Israel.

6 “In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned;
travelers took to winding paths.

7 Villagers in Israel would not fight;
they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
until I arose, a mother in Israel.

8 God chose new leaders
when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen
among forty thousand in Israel.

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.

“Then the people of the Lord
went down to the city gates.

12 ‘Wake up, wake up, Deborah!
Wake up, wake up, break out in song!
Arise, Barak!

Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.’

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.

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

JUDGES 5: SONG OF DEBORAH

and stayed in his coves.

18 The people of Zebulun risked their very lives;
so did Naphtali on the terraced fields.

19 “Kings came, they fought,
the kings of Canaan fought.

At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo,
they took no plunder of silver.

20 From the heavens the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

21 The river Kishon swept them away,
the age-old river, the river Kishon.

March on, my soul; be strong!

22 Then thundered the horses’ hooves —
galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds.

23 ‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the Lord.
‘Curse its people bitterly,

because they did not come to help the Lord,
to help the Lord against the mighty.’

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.

27 At her feet he sank,
he fell; there he lay.

At her feet he sank, he fell;
where he sank, there he fell — dead.

28 “Through the window peered Sisera’s mother;

behind the lattice she cried out,

‘Why is his chariot so long in coming?

Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?’

29 The wisest of her ladies answer her;
indeed, she keeps saying to herself,

30 ‘Are they not finding and dividing the spoils:
a woman or two for each man,

colorful garments as plunder for Sisera,
colorful garments embroidered,

highly embroidered garments for my neck —
all this as plunder?’

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.

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

SETTING

Where does this passage of scripture take place?

CHARACTERS

Who are the main characters and how are they described?

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

KEY EVENTS

What are the significant events that happen in this passage of scripture?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

What is the historical background of the people and location?

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

CULTURAL CONTEXT

What is the cultural context of this passage of scripture?

DEBORAH'S ROLE

PROPHETESS

What was the important message from God given to Deborah? How was this Word from God used to guide His people? What does the Bible say about Deborah's faith and relationship with God?

JUDGE

A judge is someone who provides justice and guidance during oppression. How does Deborah display these characteristics?

DEBORAH'S ROLE

LEADER

How was Deborah a leader? How is she an example of courage, wisdom and faith? How did Deborah's leadership style differ from other leaders in the Bible?

REFLECTION

What does the Bible say about Deborah's wisdom and courage? How does the character of Deborah influence your own character? What does the Bible say about Deborah's wisdom and courage?

HER ACTIONS AND CONTEXT

CALLING AND AUTHORITY

Where did Deborah's calling and authority come from? How do we know?

MOBILIZING THE PEOPLE

How did she rally the people together? What encouragement did she give Barak and to the people of Israel?

HER ACTIONS AND CONTEXT

THE BATTLE AND VICTORY

Why did Deborah and Barak go to war against Sisera? What role did Deborah play in the battle against Sisera's army? How did the Israelites win the battle, and what does this victory reveal about God's power? What was the significance of Jael's role in the story? What lessons can we learn from the story of Deborah and the battle against Sisera?

HER ACTIONS AND CONTEXT

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

Analyze the Song of Deborah (Chapter 5 of Judges). What extra insight does it give? What does it speak about the faith of Deborah? The Faith of the Israelites? What does the Bible say about Deborah's faith and relationship with God? How did God use Deborah to lead and deliver His people?

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

TIME OF THE JUDGES

What do you know about the time of Judges? How is this a period of instability and conflict?

OPPRESSION

Who was oppressing the Israelites? How did Deborah respond to the situation?

WOMEN'S ROLES DURING THIS TIME

How did Deborah's leadership challenge social norms? What does the Bible say about Deborah's faith and relationship with God? How did God use Deborah to lead and deliver His people? What does this tell us about the role of women in society?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

PRAYER

God chose a specific person for the task of leading His people to victory. Ask God for His leadership in your life to lead others to Jesus. Are you being a faithful leader in your home, work, community, or church? If not, what is your stumbling block? Bring it to the Lord today and ask for His courage and strength.

SERVICE

How can we approach our roles in leadership with the characteristics of Deborah? What do you lack in character to being a faithful leader? How can God use you in your leadership roles to lead and deliver others?

REFLECTION

How can we apply Deborah's example of faith and leadership in our own lives? What does Deborah's story teach us about God's character and His relationship with humanity?



itStartsSmall.com

© 2024 It Starts Small Ministries. This free printable scripture writing journal is intended for personal use and small group study. Please do not reproduce or modify without written permission. Visit www.itstartssmall.com for inquiries.

All graphics contained within this journal are used in accordance to the purchased commercial license requirements and is available upon request.
