

## **Deborah – Old Testament Script**

### **Slide 1 – Title Slide**

### **Slide 2 - DEBORAH – JUDGE, MILITARY LEADER, PROPHET**

The story of Deborah in the Old Testament is found in the book of the Bible called “Judges”.

Deborah was the only female Judge in the Bible, and the only Judge to be called a Prophet.

Deborah's name is derived from D'vorah, a Hebrew word meaning “bee”.

### **Slide 3 – WHO IS DEBORAH?**

It is not told in the Bible, but most respected scholars believe that Deborah was of the tribe of Ephraim and resided near Bethel. The Bible tells us she was a Judge, a Judge in the Old Testament was someone who settled disputes, but their main job was to be a military general and lead their army into battle.

### **Slide 4 – WHO IS DEBORAH? (CONT.)**

The story of Deborah starts in Judges 4, where Deborah is already a Judge, and she is settling disputes while she sits under a “palm of Deborah” in Ephraim.

Most Judges in the Old Testament are called Judges after military victories, but not Deborah she is called a Judge **before** a military battle.

It does not mention that she has or uses a weapon, but it is assumed that all Judges used a weapon. So it is safe to say that Deborah also probably had a sword as a Judge.

### **Slide 5 – DEBORAH SUMMONS BARAK**

Deborah summons Barak to be her general, relaying God's command to him that he is to take ten thousand men to Mount Tabor to begin the battle with the Canaanites.

When he responds he tells her he will go only if she goes, and she agrees.

### **Slide 6 – DEBORAH SUMMONS BARAK (CONT.)**

Barak takes his troops near Mount Tabor in Galilee. Deborah announces to Barak that the day of victory has come, and **“the Lord is indeed going out before you.”**

Barak and his warriors destroy all the Canaanites except their commander Sisera, who flees from the battle and takes refuge with the woman Jael, who kills him.

### **Slide 7 – DEBORAH THE PROTECTOR OF ISRAEL**

Deborah calls herself or is called the protector of Israel.

Deborah is known for her wisdom and courage and is the only woman of the Old Testament who is known for her own faith and action, not because of her husband or another man.

Deborah was said to hear God's voice and shared God's words with others. As a prophet and priestess, she did not offer sacrifices, as men did, but she did lead worship services and preach.

She is only one of five women Prophets of the Old Testament, the others are: Miriam, Huldah, Noadiah, and the Prophetess (of Isaiah).

### **Slide 8 – DEBORAH STRENGTHENS ISRAEL**

Deborah had a heart for God, and it was important that while Deborah was Judge and Prophet she also insured that the people were correctly following Jewish Law and keeping God's commandments.

### **Slide 9 – DEBORAH DIES**

Deborah died surrounded by her loved ones. Deborah not only died at a very old age. She had a proper burial under the shadow of the terebinth tree, away from the shadow of death, where her old body could "rest secure" Psalm 16:9

### **Slide 10 – DEBORAH – JUDGE AND PROPHETESS**

Deborah was a powerful warrior and spiritual leader. As a Judge, she had open communication with God and lead her people to victory.

Through prayer, she heard from God how to ensure the people of Israel would stay true to God.

As a Prophetess, she was God's mouthpiece to the people of Israel.