

## Hidden Figures – Week 2: Deborah – 5-8-24

**Deborah.** “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.”

She led Israel out of 20-yrs of oppression; brought a nation together; 40-yrs peace.

Deborah was the answer for a need. She stepped up - a worshipping warrior.

Problem-solver, People-leader, & Prophet. God spoke to her (wisdom/insight)

“Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.”

### **Judges 4:4**

No details about **Lappidoth**. Quiet doesn't mean weak.

Takes a strong, confident man to be [partner to a strong woman](#).

Ideal relationship: each supports the other. Balance, not dominance.

No jealousy for other's position. Proud. Supportive. [Bring out the best](#)

**Israel led by judges before monarchy established with Saul. Deborah – 1<sup>st</sup> fem**  
[Golda Meir - 4<sup>th</sup> prime minister \(1969-1974\). “Israel's first and only female head of government and the first in the Middle East.” Wrong. Led before was Gov't](#)

**1** - Deborah was a judge. She “**held court**” under a Palm tree.

She settled disputes, calmed anger, & mediated peace.

Likely - heard stories of unfairness/wrong; became concerned for her nation.

Since no one else takes a stand, she does. Steps up/ sit back. **Women rise to...**

**2** - Deborah arose as army **commander**.

She enlists help of **Barak** from Naphtali. Gather 10,000 men & go to Mt Tabor.

She will get **Sisera**, Canaanite army, to take his chariots to Kishon River

There, you can have victory. He'll be right in your hands.

**Judges 4:8-9** - Barak told her, “*I will go, but only if you go with me.*” **9** “*Very well,*” she replied, “*I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.*”

(1) Some people miss out on blessings b/c they don't obey. Don't give it all.

**Luke 11:28** - “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Barak didn't trust Deborah's plan... you verify it's good by going too.

(2) Some leaders sit back ... don't get hands dirty ... Deborah is a true leader!

She doesn't just give commands – she shows up.

[Deborah shows us women can be powerful leaders.](#)

Deborah was **created to be a commander**. Designed w/a destiny.

God creates all people – male & female - in His image.

**Gen. 1:27** – “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

**Some preachers will** say this about Deborah’s story – “if God can’t find the right man to take care of a task, he will find a good woman.”

● Deborah’s story shows us – **women aren’t just fill-ins**. Capable leaders. Women created w/ wisdom. Women are gifted. Skill. Ingenuity.

-- God speaks to them, God uses them, and God loves them.

Women should not just serve God & lead only when a man can’t be found!

**3** - Deborah was **confident** in God. She listened & she acted.

She **called out** an army to **come together** to defeat the **Caananite** army.

Sisera has been told Barak went up Mt Tabor. He takes 900 iron chariots & warriors to the Kishon River. Deborah tells Barak the time is now.

**Judges 4:14** - 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?”

Deborah reminds Barak: **God prepares the path. If God be for us ...**

**Deborah’s confidence is in God, not other people.**

God fights the battles of our lives as only He can do. He does the impossible! They were outnumbered, more equipment . . . but victory came to Israel.

Sisera fled on foot. Tent of **Jael**. She gives him a drink, covers him w/blanket.

He hides in tent. She drives a tent peg w/hammer through his temple. Dead.

Barak gets no glory, as she prophesied. Honor to Jael, and God.

**4** - Deborah had **compassion** for people and for Israel.

She describes herself as “a **mother in Israel**.” Israel is her **children**.

A deep love for God enables us to love others. She wanted better for them.

■ “True compassion means not only feeling another’s pain, but being motivated to help relieve it.”

**Judges 5:7** – “Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.” Deborah arose b/c of love.

Deborah is an example for us – she embraced **God’s call**. Brought people together

**Judges 5:12**: “Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song!”

She saw problem & did something about it. Got up & got going. Didn’t settle.

She didn’t think “I can’t.” I’m not qualified. Not skilled. Not leader. . . man.

You facing a mountain that seems too high to climb? An army against you?  
Feel surrounded by an enemy, with darkness all around?  
Deborah put her faith in God, not people. Deborah trusted in the unseen.  
And when victory came – she sang about it. Praised God!

**Song of the week – “God Made a Woman” – Lauren Mascitti**