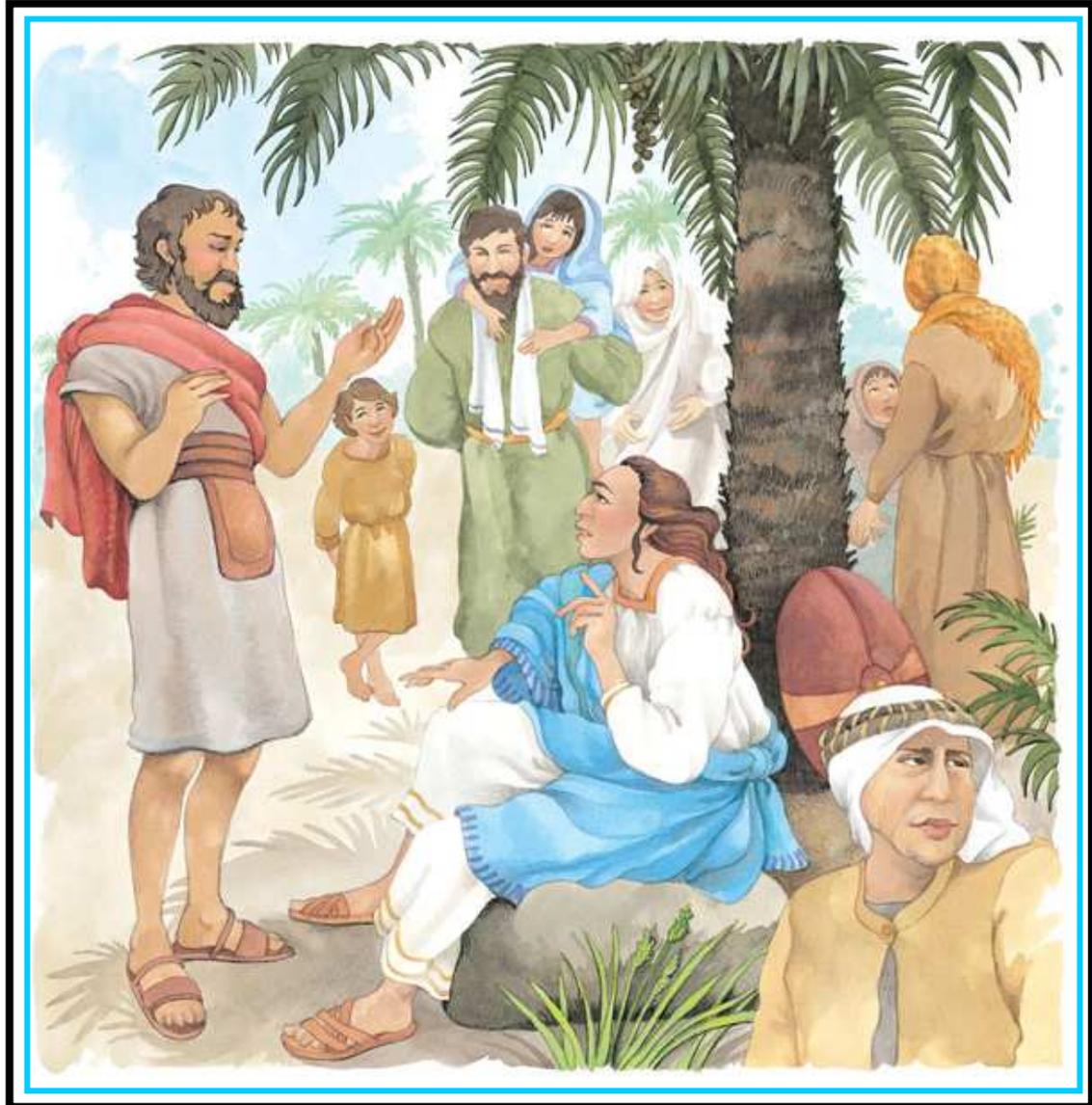


DEBORAH'S SONG



Kanaan Ministries

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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DEBORAH'S SONG

Background to the story

Jacob goes into Egypt with his sons to find food to deal with a famine that lasts for seven years.

Four hundred years later they are **still in Egypt**.

Passover – the deliverance of a nation – Miracle upon Miracle!

Mount Sinai – the promise of a Marriage Covenant by God.

- the “Bride” say: we will **do** and then “doesn’t”! - **unfaithful**
- forty years in the wilderness.

A new generation goes into the Land of Promise



BUT

Again they are “**unfaithful**”.

As a result some of the **Canaanites** remain in the land.

Moses, Aaron and now Joshua are dead!

It is time for **each individual** to make their own choice to follow God on his own initiative i.e. he does not have a major apostle / prophet / teacher / pastor to lead him.

It is the time of Judges – and things do not go as well as they should have...

Judges 21:25 “25 *In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.*”

DEBORAH: WOMAN OF GOD

1. The Canaanite King **Hazar** reigns. His Commander in Chief is **Sisera**.

He is not only ruling over his own people – he is busy oppressing the Israelites.

Why is it that God's people (New Testament and born-again) are not living in victory?

The answer is simple:

(1) They have become **double-minded** and are now worshipping **foreign gods**

(2) They **fail to speak out** and to protest against **injustice**.

When were these **breaches** made in Israel?

Judges 4:1 “After Ehud died *the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord.*”

Judges 5:8 “8 [Formerly] they *chose new gods; then war was in the gates.*”

- When the people offer themselves willingly to other gods.
- When we cause breaches i.e. open doors into our lives, it happens
 - the **physical** – we suffer oppression and other nations have glory over us by the enemy - in this case the Hebrew word “*chezquah*” is used, meaning : “the Canaanite prevailed with a mighty strength to make the Israelites afraid of them.” All their weapons were taken away.
 - In the **spiritual** – we are despised by God who withholds His blessings.

This Canaanite king stays in a city called **Haroheth** – the description of this city is interesting. It is a fortress built in a dominant position, built by the craftsman of many nations – paraphrased this name means “**the fortress of nations**”.

We will see later that this battle is in the valley of “**Armageddon**”. This battle is therefore a rehearsal of the end-time battle – God's chosen people against “**all the nations**”.



2. He has an army of 900 chariots with three horses per chariot as was the custom. This would mean 2700 horses. In today's terms, this does not sound like much of an army; but think again – the mighty Pharaoh only has 600 chariots.

Judges 4:3 “3 Then the Israelites cried to the Lord, for [Jabin] *had 900 chariots of iron and had severely oppressed the Israelites for twenty years.*”

The strength and might of Sisera's army needs to be measured against what weapons the Israelites had – the answer is: **NOTHING!** Was there a shield or a spear when 40 000 Israelites went to war? (This is a preview to the story of David and Goliath!)



Judges 5:8 "8 [Formerly] they chose new gods; then war was in the gates. Was there a shield or spear seen among 40,000 in Israel?"



This picture shows the Canaanite gods.

DEBORAH FROM THE TRIBE OF ISSACHAR

Judges 4:5 “5 She sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill **country of Ephraim**, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

The Bible tells us that she sat in the mountains of Ephraim.

BUT

She sat judging (i.e. in the place of authority) under a **palm tree**.

THE PALM TREE

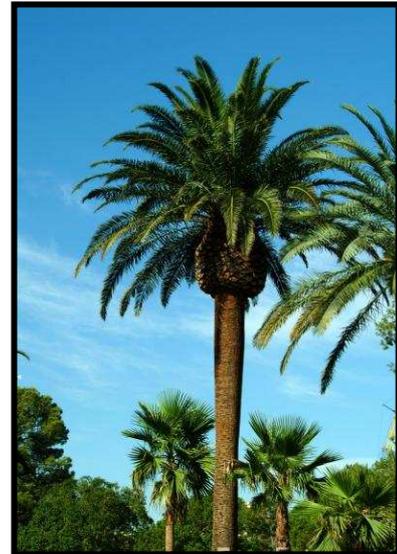
The palm tree is the symbol of the **tribe of Manassah**.

The palm grows to great heights, its root is as long as its height above the ground.

It can grow in the harshest of desert, bears much good fruit, will bend and bend and bend in the wind but will not crack under the pressure of the storm.

The Characteristics of the tribe, Manassah.

- They will stand through all circumstances
- They flourish in harsh climates



Psalm 92:12 “12 The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall **flourish like the palm tree** [be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful]; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible].

They grow in the heat of the desert i.e. they don't always have many friends.

They will lead any process to seek forgiveness and will not hold a grudge.

They have confidence in God – they have experienced the rain at the right time.

They produce the greatest quantity and quality of fruit in their old age (i.e. when the branches are big and broad) – they cover the fruit under their branches.

DEBORAH, HER MISSION AS PROPHETESS

A prophetess is **overpowered** by God

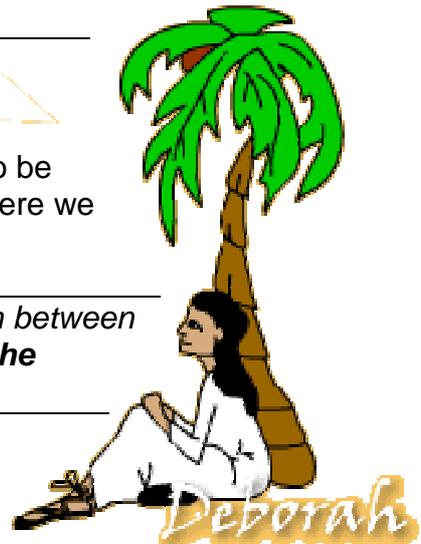
- She comes to desire God's love for His people
- She comes to desire God's justice and prophesies and preaches - even if she is not sure that she will see the result herself.

Jeremiah 20:7 "7 [But Jeremiah said] O Lord, You have **persuaded** and deceived me, and I was persuaded and deceived; You are stronger than I am and You have prevailed. I am a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

A prophetess holds up God's mirror to reflect on self-destructive chaos of hatred and foolishness. Our own hearts are deceitful. We need to be measured against the Word so that we can discern where we truly find ourselves.

Judges 4:5 "5 She sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

God will **overpower** a prophetess so that her "doubts" will be burnt up by the assurance of God's victory. All too often we initially have great confidence, but as the job wears on and the level of opposition rises, we can easily lose confidence. Therefore we need God to burn this doubt out of our minds.



Jeremiah 20:9 "9 If I say, I will not make mention of [the Lord] or speak any more in His name, in my mind and heart it is as if there were a **burning fire shut up in my bones**. And I am weary of enduring and holding it in; I cannot [contain it any longer].

Deborah calls for Barak after having heard God speak:

Judges 4:6 "6 And she sent and called Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, **Has not the Lord**, the God of Israel, **commanded** [you], Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun?

A prophetess is not sent to those who can hear and see but to those whose eyes and ears are **blocked off** from God's Word. Part of the prophet's calling is to speak to those **unrepentant** and to set before them a **benchmark** to high -light their plight.

Judges 4:1 "1 **BUT AFTER** Ehud died **the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord**.

Judges 5:8 “8 [Formerly] they **chose new gods; then war was in the gates.** Was there a shield or spear seen among 40,000 in Israel?

Judges 5:9 “9 My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the Lord!

A prophetess understands that many (the majority) will choose not to **hear** (**Sh'ma**) and **do** (“**asah**”). God’s Word promises us that everyone will hear the gospel. All through Biblical history we see that **only a remnant** truly responds.

The sad story is that many who don’t respond are those who once followed God’s path but have become confident in their own strength.

Judges 5:14-18 “14 Out of **Ephraim** they came down whose root is in Amalek, after you, **Benjamin**, with your kinsmen. Out of **Machir** came down commanders and lawgivers,

[But] among the clans of Reuben were great searchings of heart.

16 Why [Reuben] did you linger among the sheepfolds listening to the piping for the flocks? Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead remained beyond the Jordan, and **why did Dan stay** with the ships? **Asher sat still on the seacoast** and remained by his creeks. [These came not forth to battle for God’s people.]

Yet the prophetess challenges the men of God to stand up to their rightful position. In her song she talks of some of the tribes:

- Those who continue to sail i.e. do business – Dan and Asher
- Those who continue to look after sheep i.e. involved in ministry. (Reuben)

Even today spiritual leaders are called to account:

Have they taken part in the spiritual warfare necessary to protect the flock or are they substituting today’s version of alternatives with:

- Humanism
- Secularism
- Other gods

A prophetess should **reflect** the anointing placed on her life.



The Torah translates her “**title**” as “**the wife of Lapidot.**”

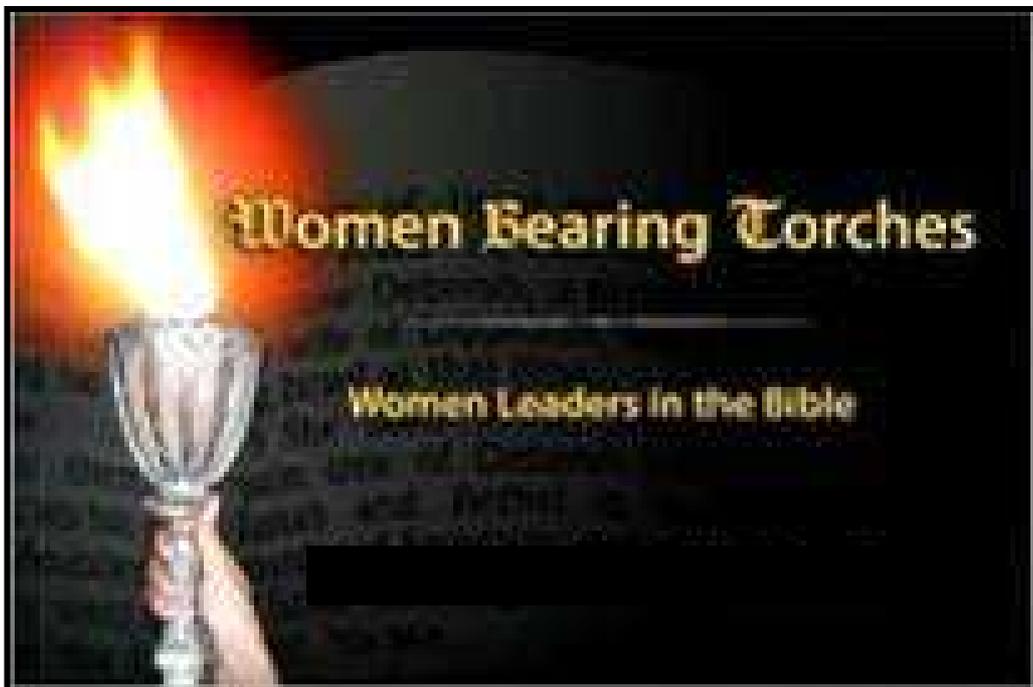
It is a strange name for a man and it doesn't come with the normal "son of".

"**Lapidot**" can also be translated from Hebrew as "**torches**".

Her title will read: "**Wife of torches**".

She truly had the Light of God shining through her! Some of the rabbi's interpret this to say that:

"She was a woman with a torch burning within her to punish the wrongdoer."



DEBORAH JUDGES FROM IGNORANCE TO TRUTH

- The prophetess sat under the **royal palm tree**.

The Old Testament view was that a prophet / prophetess (as a Divine prerequisite) needed to be someone who was wealthy in their own right. The rabbinical understanding is that she earned a livelihood from **vineyards, oil and fruit**.

The reason for this thinking is that it was considered necessary that a prophet would not be influenced to say what the people wanted to hear because he / she would **not be influenced by the needs of the flesh**.

In addition, Deborah's moral values and righteous standing are reflected by the fact that **she dealt with all manner of people** – (including strange men) in the open – in full view of all the Israelites.

She declared to those who came before her that:

- **You can't bargain with God** i.e. she makes sure that we understand that you can't live with one foot in the world and one foot in "heaven".

Jeremiah 2:13 "13 For My people have **committed two evils**: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, and they have hewn for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns which cannot hold water.

- **You reap what you sow**. God's Principle of cause and effect rolls on forever. We all will see / feel the consequence of our deeds both good and bad. All too often we find that people cry out in the time of need, but as soon as they are better then they return to their old ways of compromise.

- If you cry out to God with a **broken heart** He will hear you

Hosea 7:12-15 "12 As they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens. I will chastise them according to the announcement [or prediction made] to their congregation [in the Scriptures].

13 Woe to them, for they **have wandered from Me! Destruction** to them, because they have **rebelled and trespassed** against Me! Though I would redeem them, yet they have spoken lies against Me.

14 **They do not cry to Me from their heart, but they wail upon their beds;** they gash and distress and assemble themselves [in mourning] for grain and new wine; they rebel against Me.

15 Although I have chastened them and trained and strengthened their arms, yet they think and devise evil against Me.



- **You are not sincere about the position you find yourself in** – if circumstances had not been different, we may not have felt the need to change.

Jeremiah 2:26 “*26 As the thief is brought to shame when he is caught, so shall the house of Israel be brought to shame—they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets—*

(Remember only two full tribes come to fight)

- The prophetess starts to declare that **you have made the wrong choices:**
 - You must choose to be free, but freedom is a gift from God.

Jeremiah 10:1-5 “*1 HEAR THE word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel.
2 Thus says the Lord: **Learn not the way of the [heathen] nations** and be not dismayed at the signs of the heavens, though they are dismayed at them,
3 For **the customs and ordinances of the peoples are false, empty, and futile**; it is but a tree which one cuts out of the forest [to make for himself a god], the work of the hands of the craftsman with the ax or other tool.
4 They deck [the idol] with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so it will not fall apart or move around.
5 [Their idols] are like pillars of turned work [as upright and stationary and immobile as a palm tree], like scarecrows in a cucumber field; they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk.
Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it possible for them to do good [and it is not in them].*

- **The gods that you serve have no value.** It is a reality that men will serve all sorts of gods but it is only when circumstances are difficult that they start to realize the futility of their choice.

Jeremiah 2:27 “*27 [Inasmuch as] they say to a tree, You are my father, and to a stone, You gave me birth. For they have turned their backs to Me and not their faces; but in the time of their trouble, they say, Arise [O Lord] and save us!
28 But **where are your gods that you made for yourself?** Let them arise if they can save you in the time of your trouble! For [as many as] the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah. [Surely so many handmade idols should be able to help you!]*



- **You model your life on the external / the superficial / the way of the Greco Roman mindset** that brings no satisfaction.

Man's success on earth namely the prestige, power, wealth, etc, seems to have a magnetic attraction; often its only after years of pursuit of these goals that man sometimes comes to reflection whether it was all worth it in the end.

Micah 6:14-16 "14 **You shall eat but not be satisfied**, and your emptiness and hunger shall remain in you; you shall carry away [goods and those you love] but fail to save them, and those you do deliver I will give to the sword
15 You shall **sow but not reap**; you shall tread olives but not anoint yourselves with oil,
and [you shall extract juice from] the grapes but not drink the wine.
16 For the statutes of [idolatrous] Omri you have kept, and all the works of the house of [wicked] Ahab, and you walk in their counsels. Therefore I will make you a desolation and an astonishment and your [city's] inhabitants a hissing, and you shall bear the reproach and scorn of My people.

The prophetess calls all to repent and return – its God's Heart that none will perish

Zechariah 1:4 "4 Be not as your fathers to whom the former prophets cried, Thus says the Lord of hosts: **Return now** from your evil ways and your evil doings; but they would not hear or listen to Me, says the Lord.

Those who hear God are wise and whose minds are focused to search for truth and who will not be distracted.



Isaiah 28:9 "9 To whom **will He teach knowledge**? [Ask the drunkards.] And whom will He make to understand the message? Those who are babies, just weaned from the milk and taken from the breasts?
10 For it is [His prophets repeating over and over]: precept upon precept, precept upon precept, rule upon rule, rule upon rule; here a little, there a little.

In this story, the people start to realize that the reason why they are so oppressed and why they do not experience victory, even though they are the chosen people, is because they have made the choice to be **disobedient** to God's Commandments.

A remnant of Godly people start to seek Deborah's counsel and as her words of prophecy go forth, greater numbers of people – especially the women, call out to God for His intervention.

Judges 4:3 "3 Then the Israelites **cried** to the Lord.....

Judges 5:2 *"2 For the leaders who took the lead in Israel, for the people who offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!"*

The twelve tribes were called together by Moses at Mount Sinai. Each tribe was:

- allocated to a **specific position** around the Tabernacle;
- each given a **unique prophetic word**;
- each given a **specific inheritance** in the land.

This image so closely reflects the analogy that Paul uses, namely that we are all distinct but joined parts of One Body.

This story of Deborah reflects how in this time of need only some of the parts of the Body of Messiah responded.



DEBORAH ENCOURAGES THE ISRAELITES FROM INJUSTICE TO TRUTH

The prophetess challenges the men of God about **their lack of moral values and priestly roles**.

- Israel was **afraid** of the enemy and walked on **back-roads**, but also walked **on crooked roads** because there was no one to show them the way.

Judges 5:6 “6 After the days of Shamgar son of Anath, after the days of Jael [meaning here Ehud] the caravans ceased, **travelers walked through byways**.

7 The villages were unoccupied and rulers ceased in Israel until you arose—you, Deborah, arose—a mother in Israel.

She calls the men (leadership) to attention as she reminds them of the cry of the women. Men are called to take the responsibility to provide direction and protection to the women and children.

Judges 5:11 “11 Then the people of the Lord went down to the gates.
12 Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, utter a song! Arise, Barak, and lead away your captives, you son of Abinoam.

The prophetess calls out against the injustice **where men have failed to protect the women**.

In those days it was the women who went to draw water from a well outside of the gates of the city. Instead of protecting the women, the leaders (those who ride ♦white donkeys) travel on “other” roads so that they do not see the robbers (archers) violating the women at the well.



Judges 5:10 “10 Tell of it—you who ride on **white donkeys**, you who sit on rich carpets, and you who walk by the way.
11 Far from **the noise of archers in the places of drawing water...**

The prophetess in her song tells us of other **acts of sexual exploitation** at the time – she says that “each” man would take a “damsel or two”.

♦ Such animals are rare and costly and to possess one of these animals meant that you were some one of influence.

Deborah highlights what the conquerors / oppressors thought about the Hebrew women. Literally they meant the “womb” of two / three women.

Judges 5:30 “30 Have they not found and been dividing the spoil? **A maiden or two for every man**, a spoil of dyed garments for Sisera, a spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?

The prophetess exposes the perversion where the men of Israel had forsaken the ways of God and began to worship foreign gods (same as Sisera), where they accept the belief that **various powers control the forces of nature**.

Deborah engages in **spiritual warfare**, ¹ cancels the occultic power that the magicians had released into the stars and then commanded God’s creation to come in line with God’s order, nullifying the demonic power that the Canaanites used.

Judges 5:20 “20 From the heavens the stars fought, from their **courses they fought against Sisera**.

The prophetess starts to tell the Israelites:

- That we must walk in righteousness

Psalm 46:10 “10 Let be and be still, and know (recognize and understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! **I will be exalted in the earth!**

Ezekiel 33:18 “18 When the **righteous turns back** from his [uncompromising] righteousness and commits perverseness and iniquity, he shall even die in and because of it.
19 But if the wicked turns back from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it.

- That we must seek God’s Face

Hosea 6:6 “6 For **I desire and delight in dutiful steadfast love** and goodness, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of and acquaintance with God more than burnt offerings.

- That we must trust in God even though we do not know what will happen

¹ For more understanding please see: **The Believers Warfare in the Heavenlies** available from Kanaan Ministries.

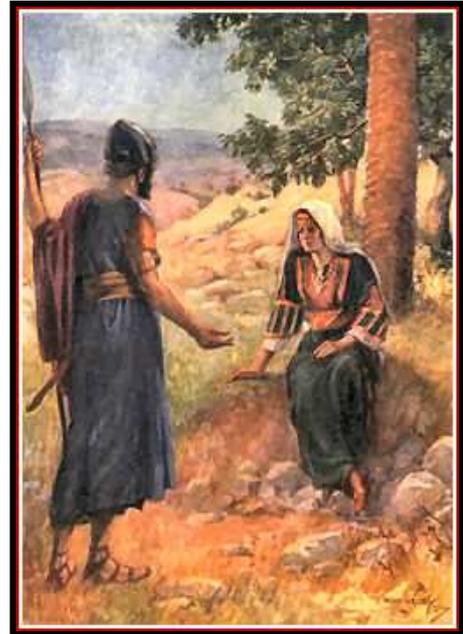
Hosea 12:6 “6 Therefore return to your God! Hold fast to love and mercy, to righteousness and justice, and **wait [expectantly]** for your God continually!

Deborah called Barak to take up the arms of war.

Note: She goes to remind him – God had already told him what to do – she asks: “**Has God not told you?**”

Judges 4:6 “6 And she sent **and called Barak** son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, **Has not the Lord**, the God of Israel, **commanded [you].....**

- That we have to **trust** in God’s Covenant promise to save us



Jeremiah 15:19-21 “19 Therefore thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah]: If you return [and give up this mistaken tone of distrust and despair], **then I will give you again a settled place of quiet and safety**, and you will be My minister; and if you separate the precious from the vile [cleansing your own heart from unworthy and unwarranted suspicions concerning God’s faithfulness], you shall be My mouthpiece. [But do not yield to them.] Let them return to you—not you to [the people].

20 And I will make **you to this people a fortified, bronze wall**; they will fight against you, but they will not prevail over you, for **I am with you to save and deliver you, says the Lord.**

21 And I will deliver you out of the hands of the wicked, and I will redeem you out of the palms of the terrible and ruthless tyrants.

It is easy to stand and walk in faith when the circumstances that face you do not overpower you. Your trust in God will really only be measured when you find yourself in a similar place as was the case of Barak.

He went to war with NO weapons and NO armour and faced a well-trained and well equipped army. The odds were truly against them, just as the story of Gideon.

Judges 7:8-10 “8 So **the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands**, and he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his home and retained those 300 men. And the host of Midian was below him in the valley.
9 That same night the Lord said to Gideon, Arise, go down against their camp, for I have given it into your hand.
10 But if you fear to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the camp

DEBORAH GOES TO BATTLE TO CHANGE DESPAIR TO JOY

The prophetess hears from God and irrespective of the fact that:

- Barak is afraid. **Note:** He is not afraid of the battle but rather that he will not be able to hear clearly when or what God's instructions to him are.

Barak wanted Deborah to go into battle alongside of him. Although she does not physically take up arms, she goes to be with them.

A general who goes to war gets both the glory for "going" and the glory of the victory. Deborah and Barak have heard from God that He will cause the victory.

Because Barak is afraid, she declares that his "punishment" will be measure for measure.

Just as Barak diminished God's glory by making it contingent on Deborah's attendance, so will his glory as general be transferred to a woman.

Not only is his glory transferred to a woman – but to a "righteous gentile" in today's terms one of us that has been adopted into the family of God through the Blood of Messiah.

Jael, the wife of Heber the **Kenite**, is a descendant of **Jethro** – the father-in-law of Moses. She clung to and became attached to the God of Israel.

- Only two full tribes have come to stand with Deborah (Naphtali and Zebulun)

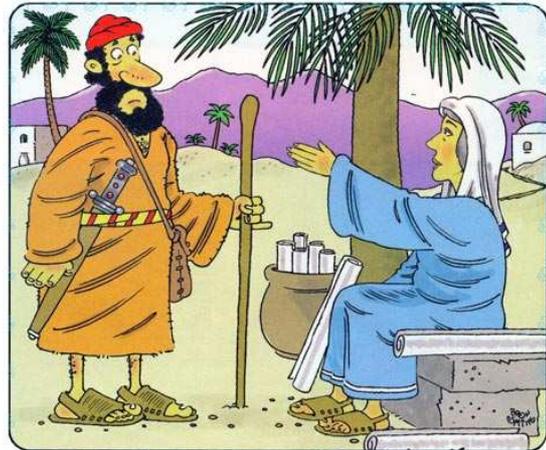
Deborah declares that she will go with:

Judges 4:9 "9 And she said, **I will surely go with you**; nevertheless, the trip you take will not be for your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. [Fulfilled in Judg. 4:22.]

She knows who is at her side.

Zechariah 4:6 "6 Then he said to me, This [addition of the bowl to the candlestick, causing it to yield a ceaseless supply of oil from the olive trees] is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit** [of Whom the oil is a symbol], says the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 43:11 "11 I, even I, am the Lord, and **besides Me there is no Savior.**



The prophetess gets ready to sound the **shofar** – to declare God is with us and we have the victory.



Joel 2:1-3 “1 **BLOW THE trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on My holy Mount [Zion].** Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, **for the day of [the judgment of] the Lord is coming; it is close at hand—**

2 A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and of thick mists and darkness, like the morning dawn spread

upon the mountains;

so there comes a [heathen, hostile] people numerous and mighty, the like of which has never been before and shall not be again even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yes, and none has escaped [the ravages of the devouring hordes].

The prophetess declares that her people will return to God and take back all of the land. Our Covenantal Keeping God’s promise made to Moses was that if we keep and do His Word, we would be blessed.

Ezekiel 36:26-28 “26 **A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

27 And I will **put my Spirit within you** and cause you **to walk in My statutes**, and you shall heed My ordinances and do them.

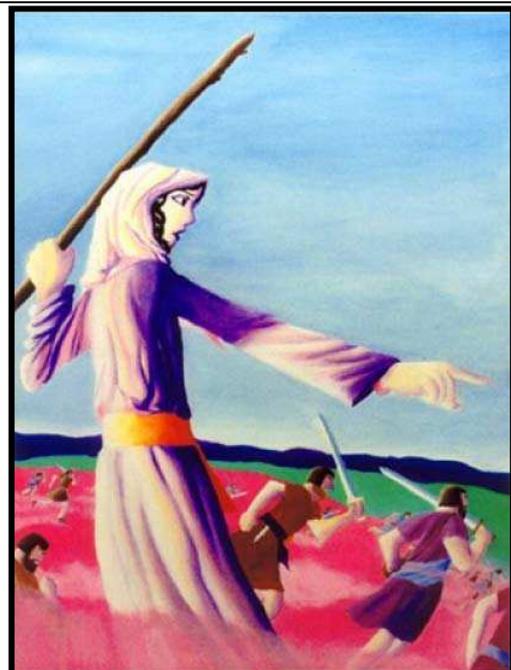
28 And you **shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.**

Haggai 1:13 “13 Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, spoke the Lord’s message to the people saying, **I am with you**, says the Lord.

Deborah prophetically declares that her people **will return** to their cities

Judges 5:11 “11there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, even the righteous acts toward His villagers in Israel. Then the people of the Lord went down to the gates.

An alternative understanding of Deborah’s name is “bee”. Truly in this battle she acts as the “queen bee”. She raises up a swarm of **warriors for battle** and sends them out to protect the land of Israel.



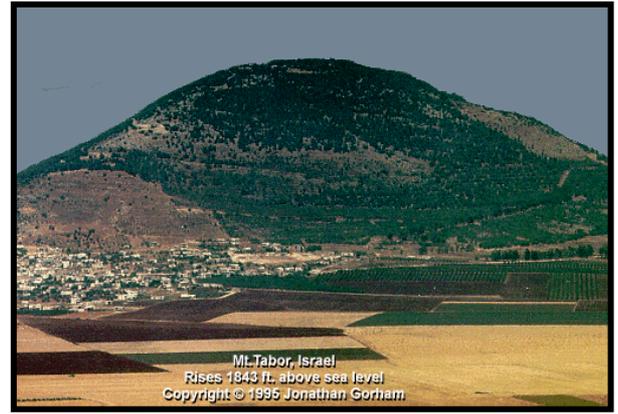
MOUNT TABOR AND MEGGIDO

For those who have visited Israel this story has some very real interest. Barak starts from Mount Tabor.

Judges 4:6 “6 And she sent and called Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded [you], Go, gather **your men at Mount Tabor**, taking 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun?”



DELL OF MEGIDDO



MOUNT TABOR

The Bible speaks of the end-time Battle of Armageddon; **it is in this same valley.**

Barak with 10 000 men on foot comes to do battle against the armoured division of the Canaanites and its at the **water of Meggido** (the place called the burial ground of kings) that **Sisera** dies.

Judges 5:19 “19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan at Taanach by the ²**waters of Megiddo**. **Gain of booty they did not obtain.** 20 From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.

The Canaanite kings came with the expectation to take “spoils of war” while the Israelites fought for liberty and their lives. What a difference!!

How can men on foot take on the 900 chariots? GOD GOES BEFORE THEM!!

Judges 4:14 “14 Is not the Lord gone out before you? So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him.

² The Kidron rises at the foot of Mount Tabor and winds along for 30 miles through the Jezreel Valley before it flows into the Mediterranean Sea. It formed the boundary between Issachar and Zebulun.

God sent a mighty rain storm – the route across the valley became a mud-bath and the chariots got stuck!

And so in reality the dark clouds of this thunderstorm were in fact God's way to bring relief to the faithful remnant gathered to fight.

This story and the one in Exodus need to be retold to each succeeding generation. Why? Because God **confuses our enemies**:

Judges 4:15 "15 And the Lord **confused and terrified** Sisera and all his chariot drivers and all his army before Barak with the sword. And Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled on foot.



Exodus 14:24 "24 And in the morning watch the Lord through the pillar of fire and cloud looked down on the host of the Egyptians and **discomfited** [them],

There is another interesting fact to note here At Mount Tabor we have 10 000 men who gather to fight with NO weapons.



A few years later, Gideon will go to war. God takes him through a process to reduce his army to a small band of only 300.

What had happened, why are there now only such a small number of men that had **faith** in God to provide the answer?

STRANGE CHOICE OF TRIBES TO GO TO WAR

Let's look at the makeup of these **two tribes**:

1. Naphtali, whose name means to **struggle, wrestle, go forward and prevail until I have victory**.

God recognizes the strong will of the tribe and blesses them.

Genesis 49:21 *"21 Naphtali is a hind let loose which yields lovely fawns."*

In answering the call, they willingly harness their own free choice and chose to follow God. Because they chose to follow God, He gives them the full blessing.

Psalm 37:4 *"4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart."*

Barak – is typical Naphtali – he wants to run free. God calls him to go to war – but he needs to be **reminded**.

2. Zebulun whose name means to dwell in, to reside, have been placed in the area where they are seafarers – their emblem is a ship.

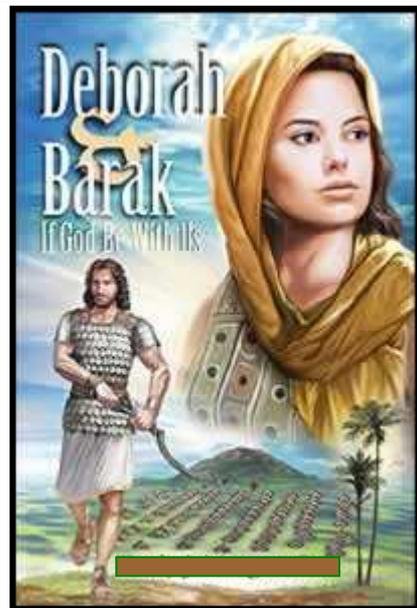
Interesting this tribe is gifted and anointed to **hold a pen** – to be a scribe and not to go out with the sword.

Judges 5:14 *".....out of Zebulun those who handle the pen or stylus of the writer."*

Normally they would want to escape conflict, would want to wait and see, but because they have a heart for those who are wounded and hurt – for those the Zebulites go to war.

Strangely as much as war is against their very nature, the Bible records that they answer the call over and over again.

- in the time of Gideon
- in the time of David



DEBORAH'S SONG

1. She sings under the **authority of leaders**:

Judges 5:2 “*2 For **the leaders who took the lead in Israel**, for the people who offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!
3 Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; I will sing to the Lord. I will sing praise to the Lord, the God of Israel.*”

2. **She acknowledges God's part**; she is comparing this victory to the victory of the River of Reeds and the subsequent Covenantal meeting at Mount Sinai.

Judges 5:4 “*4 Lord, when **You went forth** out of Seir, when You marched out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens also dropped, yes, the clouds dropped water.*”

3. **She praises women who answer the call to act.** We see an interesting example of Covenantal language as it is presented to us from an Eastern culture. Covenant inherently contains principles of a “perpetual / continuing” element.

Jethro – the forefather of Heber the Kenite, takes it upon himself and his family the recurring ³**mitzvah** for looking out for and protecting the Israelites when he accepted Moses as refugee from Pharaoh into his tent.

In the same way his descendants continue to fulfil this **mitzvah** of protecting the descendants of Moses even if it means that **Jael** must kill the enemy Sisera. **In the Eastern custom it is not permitted for a man to enter into a woman's tent**; an offence punishable by death. He therefore brought **himself** under the death penalty.

Judges 5:24 “*24 Blessed above women shall **Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite**, be; blessed shall she be above women in the tent.*”



³ **Mitzvah** is a good deed towards our fellowman which is an act of obedience where we willingly surrender our will to perform God's commandments thereby changing the spiritual atmosphere at that time.

4. The recordings of the failures of the other tribes to respond to the purpose and destiny blemish her song of joy.

Men of God will always be measured not so much by what they did not do (stay away from sin) but rather from **their actions to help others**.

The Holocaust in Germany is another stark witness of men who turned their back on the wrongs committed against fellow human beings.

We are not given much detail, but it appears that a particular city – **Meroz** – and its inhabitants were very close to the action that day. It almost seems that they were in the midst of the fight so that they could have no possible excuse – but chose deliberately not to help.

As a result they are publically excommunicated (cursed) by the angel in authority so that everyone would know that they should have restricted dealings with them.

5. Deborah's song ends with an end-time proclamation

Judges 5:31 *"31 So let all Your enemies perish, O Lord! But let those who love Him be like the sun when it rises in its might. And the land had peace and rest for forty years.*

She "sees" in the spirit a time when the Messiah – the Son of Righteousness will shine (rule) forever.

Malachi 4:2 *"2 But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings and His beams, and you shall go forth and gambol like calves [released] from the stall and leap for joy.*

6. **Barak sings with Deborah because he finished the job** – he pursued Sisera until he knew for sure that they had **complete victory**.

Judges 4:16 *"16 But **Barak pursued** after the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoiim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the sword; **not a man was left.***

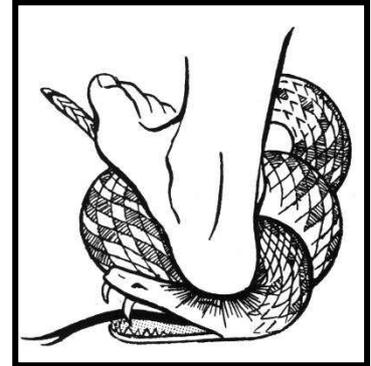
Judges 5:1 *"1 **THEN SANG Deborah and Barak** son of Abinoam on that day, saying....*



JOINING THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENT TO ESTABLISH THIS PRINCIPLE

Way back in the Garden of Eden, just after the fall of mankind, God makes this Messianic prophecy:

Genesis 3:15 “15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.



We will crush satan’s head – he will bruise my “heel”. The journey through the wilderness and into the Land of Canaan is part of God’s process to test us and to see what is in our hearts.

Deuteronomy 7:14 “14 You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

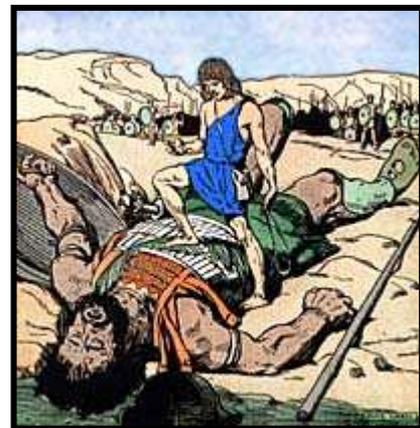
He promises His Covenant-keeping people blessings immeasurable

Deuteronomy 7:12-16 “12 And if you hearken to these precepts and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love which He swore to your fathers.
13 And **He will love you, bless you, and multiply you**; He will also **bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, your grain, your new wine, and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock in the land which He swore to your fathers to give you.**
14 **You shall be blessed above all peoples**; there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.
15 And the Lord will take away from you **all sickness**, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt which you knew will He put upon you, but will lay them upon all who hate you.
16 And you shall consume all the peoples whom the Lord your God will give over to you; your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

BUT

His Covenant people must walk and leave a “footprint” with their “heels” of righteous living

- They must be bearers of the fruit of the Spirit
- They must prepare for war to crush the enemy.
- They must (like David) pick up five small stones to kill the giants.



- Wherever they go they must leave a footprint that reflects the Image of the Messiah.

The kingdom of darkness will always come:

- To take away our possession
- To make us one with them through compromise.

God promises if I walk in obedience and keep His covenant

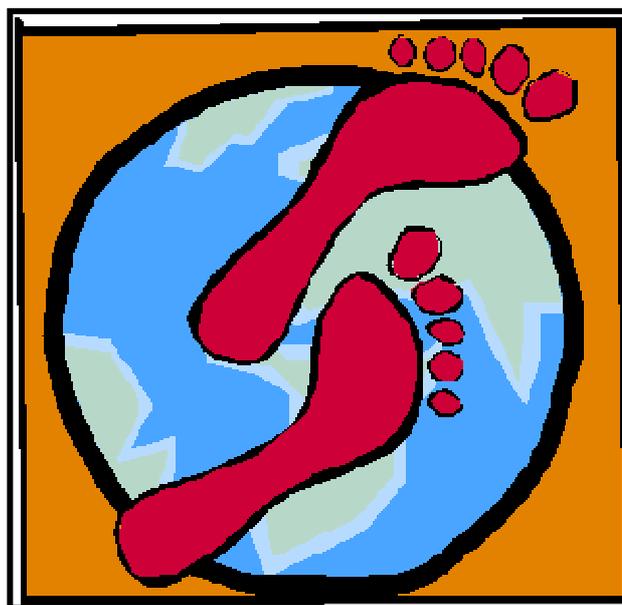
- Every place I tread will belong to me

Deuteronomy 11:24 *“24 Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea [the Mediterranean] your territory shall be.
25 There shall **no man be able to stand before you**; the Lord your God shall lay the fear and the dread of you upon all the land that you shall tread, as He has said to you.*

Paul confirms this for us:

Romans 8:37-39 *“37 Yet amid all these **things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.**
38 For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers,
39 Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God will use any willing resource (in this case, Deborah) to challenge a man of God to leave a footprint of His Image.



OUR SONG IN 2008

Women of today:

- Find a palm of righteousness – a place of **safe authority**.
- Discern God’s prophetic word for you and your family
- Choose worthy warriors / intercessors from the tribes of Zebulan and Naphtali to fight the battle with you.
- Release the “other” tribes in the Body of Messiah – God goes before you – you don’t need the arm of flesh.
- **Praise God!! It is always appropriate to compose a song of thankfulness to record the faithfulness of God in every circumstance.**

