

Deborah the Prophetess Jud. 4:1-5:31

Introduction:

Israel has again fallen away from God. Ehud has died and they have turned away from God. God has sold them into the hand of Jabin for 20 years (4:2-3). When the children of Israel cry out to God, He again is faithful and sends Deborah to deliver them.

I. Retell the story.

- A. Notice the characters in this story (4:1-6).
 - 1. Jabin – King of Canaan.
 - 2. Sisera – Commander of the army of Canaan.
 - 3. Deborah – Prophetess in Israel.
 - 4. Barak – Commander of the army of Israel (4:6).
- B. The persecution of Israel (4:3).
 - 1. Jabin had 900 chariots of iron (impressive army).
 - 2. He had oppressed Israel for 20 years.
- C. The deliverance of Israel (4:6-24).
 - 1. Deborah calls for Barak and gives the command (from God) to go and fight with Sisera (4:6-10).
 - a. Barak refuses to go, unless Deborah will go with him (4:8).
 - b. Deborah says that she will go, however, Sisera will be delivered into the hand of a woman, not Barak (4:9).
 - c. Barak and Deborah take 10,000 men and go fight with Jabin.
 - 2. Sisera comes out to fight against Barak (4:11-16).
 - a. During this battle, Israel begins to prevail.
 - 3. Sisera flees and is killed by Jael (4:17-22).
 - a. Also notice 5:24-27.
 - 4. Jabin is subdued and Israel is freed from their persecution (4:23-24).

There are several things that stick out about this story. Notice the following two:

II. Everyone can do great things when they work for God.

- A. Of those mentioned in this story, they are mentioned very little outside of Judges 4-5.
 - 1. In fact, only Jabin and Sisera (two evil people) are mentioned outside our text.
 - 2. God used two women to deliver the people of Israel.
 - a. Barak refused to go to the battle alone.
 - 1) He wanted Deborah to go with him.
 - 2) Because Barak refused to go alone, God used a little known woman to deliver Israel from this 20 year oppression.
 - 3) Deborah and Jael worked for the Lord.
 - b. Even though they may have not been well known (especially Jael), great things happened because they worked for God.
- B. Today, we need to remember that we work for the Lord.

1. In working for God, we will always do our best.
 - a. **Ecc. 9:10** - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with [all] your might;
 - b. **Col. 3:23-24** (context of bondservants) - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, {24} knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
 - c. **Col. 3:17** - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
2. When we work for God, great things can happen.
 - a. We can take pride knowing that we have done our best.
 - b. We also have joy knowing that we have that home in heaven.
 - c. God is glorified and others can even be saved when we do our best in spreading the gospel.
- C. Because Deborah and Jael worked for God, great things happened; namely, Israel was delivered.

III. God will take care of His people.

- A. Ultimately, it was God that delivered Sisera into the hands of Israel.
 1. **4:6-7**
 2. **4:9**
 3. **4:14-15**
 4. **4:23**
- B. As Deborah closes her thoughts, she compares the enemy of God with those that love Him (**5:31**).
 1. The enemies of the Lord will perish.
 - a. **Ps. 21:8-9** - Your hand will find all Your enemies; your right hand will find those who hate You. {9} You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; the LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them.
 - b. **Ps. 37:20** - But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.
 - c. **Ps. 92:9** - For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, for behold, Your enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.
 - d. **Heb. 10:30** - For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord.
 2. Some enemies will perish immediately.
 3. All enemies will be destroyed after this life.
- C. Instead of being an enemy of God, we need to work to become a friend of God.
 1. We are the ones that put ourselves at enmity with God.
 - a. **Js. 4:4** - Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore

wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2. Jesus tells us how we can become His friend.
 - a. **Jn. 15:14** - You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Conclusion: