

BIBLE WOMEN - DEBORAH - JUDGE OF ISRAEL

JUDGES 4:1-9

Many believe that the selection of a female judge was, in fact, a judgment against Israel. God uses whomever He chooses.

I. TIME OF OFFENSES

- A. Once again, Israel does evil in God's Sight (vs. 1)
 - 1. Ehud - when Lefty stabbed Hefty (Chapter 3)
 - 2. The land was at rest 80 years JUDGES 3:30
- B. What character do WE have when the authority leaves?
 - 1. When we think no one is looking? (PSA. 11:4)
 - 2. God was watching and tried them (vs. 2)

II. TIME OF OPPRESSION

- A. The children cried out (vs. 3) - a common cycle
 - 1. SOLD to a Canaanite king / Political wickedness
 - 2. 900 Chariots - the battlefield tanks of the day
- B. Under the boot of Sisera for 20 years (100-year cycle)
- C. (MIGHTILY) oppressed - with power and great energy

III. TIME OF WEAKNESS

- A. No man stood up; they cowered away JUDGES 5:6-7
 - 1. No one willing to stand fast (PSA. 78:37)
 - 2. We are INSTRUCTED so (1 COR. 15:58)
 - 3. Because of HIM HEB. 3:14 / HEB. 6:19
- B. Barak did not hear from God, Deborah did. (vs. 6)
 - 1. Women can certainly hear from God
 - 2. But what a shame that no man ALSO heard!
- C. There was an army of 10,000 available! (900 chariots)
 - 1. Barak's answer - only if Deborah goes (to war)
 - 2. God moved - Sisera was defeated (vs. 15)

IV. TIME OF WOMEN

- A. Not only did God use Deborah, but also Jael (vs. 21)
 - 1. No man received glory in the battle that day
 - 2. When men won't obey, women will fill the gaps
- B. We need strong men and godly women to serve God
 - 1. God's Will be done: Whether through man or woman, strong or weak, confident or hesitant
 - 2. Anyone can rely on God's STRENGTH (2 COR. 12:10)
- C. EPH. 6:10 - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

PSALM 11:4 - "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

MIGHTILY (WEBSTER'S 1828) - "With great power, force of strength; vigorously; as, to strive mightily. Vehemently; with great earnestness."

PSA. 78:37 - "For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant."

1 COR. 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

HEB. 3:14 - "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;"

HEB. 6:19 - "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"

2 COR. 12:10 - "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."