



The Only Female Judge in the Bible



What does the name of Deborah mean ?:

(a bee). (B.C. 1857.)

We find that Deborah, was the bible informs us that she was the nurse of Rebekah.

Genesis 35:8 New International Version

8 Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named **Allon Bakuth**.^[a]

Allon Bakuth means *oak of weeping*.(Genesis 35:8)

Deborah accompanied Rebekah from the house of Bethuel,

Genesis 24:59 New International Version, is only mentioned by name on the occasion of her burial under the oak tree of Bethel, which was called in her honor Allon-bachuth.

59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men.

Deborah is a prominent figure in the Old Testament, known for her role as a prophetess, judge, and leader of Israel.



Her account is primarily found in the Book of Judges, chapters 4 and 5.

Judges 4-5 New International Version

Deborah

4 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead.

2 So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim.

3 Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading[a] Israel at that time.

5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.

7 I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”

8 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.”

9 “Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ brother-in-law,^[b] and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

12 When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

13 Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

14 Then 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?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him.

15 At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

16 Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

17 Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

19 “I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

20 “Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’”

21 But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

22 Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. “Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

23 On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. **24** And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

The Song of Deborah

5 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

2

“When the princes in Israel take the lead,
when the people willingly offer themselves—
praise the Lord!

3

“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers!
I, even I, will sing to [c] the Lord;
I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song.

4

“When you, Lord, went out from Seir,
when you marched from the land of Edom,
the earth shook, the heavens poured,
the clouds poured down water.

5

The mountains quaked before the Lord, the One of Sinai,
before the Lord, the God of Israel.

6

“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned;
travelers took to winding paths.

7

Villagers in Israel would not fight;
they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
until I arose, a mother in Israel.

8

God chose new leaders
when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen
among forty thousand in Israel.

9

My heart is with Israel’s princes,
with the willing volunteers among the people.
Praise the Lord!

10

“You who ride on white donkeys,
sitting on your saddle blankets,
and you who walk along the road,
consider

11 the voice of the singers[d] at the watering places.

They recite the victories of the Lord,
the victories of his villagers in Israel.

“Then the people of the Lord
went down to the city gates.

12

‘Wake up, wake up, Deborah!

Wake up, wake up, break out in song!

Arise, Barak!

Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.’

13

“The remnant of the nobles came down;
the people of the Lord came down to me against the
mighty.

14

Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek;
Benjamin was with the people who followed you.
From Makir captains came down,
from Zebulun those who bear a commander’s[e] staff.

15

The princes of Issachar were with Deborah;
yes, Issachar was with Barak,
sent under his command into the valley.
In the districts of Reuben
there was much searching of heart.

16

Why did you stay among the sheep pens[f]
to hear the whistling for the flocks?
In the districts of Reuben
there was much searching of heart.

17

Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan.
And Dan, why did he linger by the ships?
Asher remained on the coast
and stayed in his coves.

18

The people of Zebulun risked their very lives;
so did Naphtali on the terraced fields.

19

“Kings came, they fought,
the kings of Canaan fought.
At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo,
they took no plunder of silver.

20

From the heavens the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

21

The river Kishon swept them away,
the age-old river, the river Kishon.
March on, my soul; be strong!

22

Then thundered the horses' hooves—
galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds.

23

‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the Lord.
‘Curse its people bitterly,
because they did not come to help the Lord,
to help the Lord against the mighty.’

24

“Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.

25

He asked for water, and she gave him milk;
in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk.

26

Her hand reached for the tent peg,
her right hand for the workman’s hammer.
She struck Sisera, she crushed his head,
she shattered and pierced his temple.

27

At her feet he sank,
he fell; there he lay.
At her feet he sank, he fell;
where he sank, there he fell—dead.

28

“Through the window peered Sisera’s mother;
behind the lattice she cried out,
‘Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?’

29

The wisest of her ladies answer her;
indeed, she keeps saying to herself,

30

‘Are they not finding and dividing the spoils:
a woman or two for each man,
colorful garments as plunder for Sisera,
colorful garments embroidered,
highly embroidered garments for my neck—
all this as plunder?’

31

“So may all your enemies perish, Lord!
But may all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength.”
Then the land had peace forty years.

Deborah stands out as a woman of faith, wisdom, and courage, who played a crucial role in delivering Israel from oppression.

Historical Context:

Circa 1204 - 1144 B.C.,

Deborah lived during the period of the Judges, a time characterized by a cycle of Israel's disobedience, oppression by foreign powers, cries for deliverance, and subsequent rescue by judges raised by God.

This era followed the conquest of Canaan and preceded the establishment of the monarchy in Israel.

Role as a Judge and Prophetess:

Deborah is introduced in Judges 4:4-5 NIV:

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading[a] Israel at that time.

5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

As a judge, Deborah held a position of authority and was sought after for her wisdom and guidance.

Her role as a prophetess indicates that she received divine revelation, which she communicated to the people of Israel.

Military Leadership and Victory:

Deborah's leadership is most notably demonstrated in the battle against the Canaanite king Jabin and his commander Sisera.

In Judges 4:6-7 New International Version

6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.

7 I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”

Despite Barak's hesitance, he agrees to go only if Deborah accompanies him, to which she consents, but prophesies that the honor of victory will go to a woman:

Judges 4:9 New International Version

9 “Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.



The battle unfolds as Deborah predicted, with the LORD routing Sisera and his chariots.

Sisera flees on foot and is ultimately killed by Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, fulfilling Deborah's prophecy:

Judges 4:21 New International Version

21 But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

The Song of Deborah:

Judges 5 records the Song of Deborah, a poetic retelling of the victory over the Canaanites.

This song is one of the oldest passages in the Bible and celebrates God's deliverance, the bravery of the leaders, and the willingness of the people to fight.

It highlights the unity and cooperation among the tribes of Israel and praises Jael's decisive action.

The song also serves as a reminder of the consequences of failing to join in the battle, as seen in the rebuke of the tribes that did not participate.

Legacy and Significance:

Deborah's account is significant for several reasons.

She is one of the few female leaders in the Bible, demonstrating that God can use anyone, regardless of gender, to accomplish His purposes.

Her faith and obedience to God's command serve as an example of righteous leadership.



Deborah's role in the victory over the Canaanites brought peace to the land for forty years **Judges 5:31 NIV,**

31

“So may all your enemies perish, Lord!
But may all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength.”
Then the land had peace forty years.

This underscoring the impact of her leadership on the nation of Israel.

Conclusion:

Deborah, the only female judge in the Bible, whom excelled in multiple areas.

Clearly one of the Bible's most outstanding figures, she served ancient Israel as a prophet, judge, military leader, songwriter, and minstrel (**Judges 4–5**).

How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life, and I believe, that God raised You from the dead, this day, I ask you to be my Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9 New Living Translation:

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

