



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Deborah Steps Up To Lead (Judges 4:4)

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Without vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). The Book of Judges features a period of about 350 years between the arrival of the people of Israel in their promised Land and the beginning of their first monarchy. Joshua, their great leader, died after assigning each of the twelve tribes to an area for them to secure and to settle. God had demonstrated that He could be their leader and protector. The tribes of Israel were attracted to the idols of their neighboring peoples. They failed the tests of vertical and horizontal relationships as provided in the Ten Commandments (Judges 3:4). Jesus tests, Satan tempts (John 10:10). Consider sharing one of your tests or temptation victories.

INTRODUCTION

Israel mingled with those living in the land and began to worship their gods. The LORD turned them over to be ruled by one of the territorial kings. People cried to the LORD for relief. The LORD raised up Judges to give limited protection and settle disputes among countrymen. **Have you observed a friend or employee who thrived in a position with very little supervision?**

DEBORAH THE JUDGE

Judges 4:4-5 Deborah, a prophetess and the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to settle disputes. (CSB)

The people of Israel were distressed under the Tyranny of Jabin, King of Canan. There were roving bands of robbers, thieves, and Militia. Commerce had ceased, roads were unoccupied, traveling was dangerous, fields were barren, it was hazardous to gather water, defensive weapons were scarce, and they chose new gods (Judges 5:1-8). **Can you describe a similar situation in more modern times?**

DEBORAH GIVES GENERAL BARAK THE PLAN

Judges 4:6-7 She summoned Barak son of Abinam from Kedesh in Naphtali (CSB)

Deborah asked Barak, Israel's general, if God also spoke to him about the timing of an attack on King Jabin's army. She tells him where to deploy: Mount Tabor.

How many soldiers to take: 10,000

Where to recruit the army: Mostly the two nearby tribes

The battle plan: God will draw General Sisera out.

The result: God will hand them over to you.

When have you had a very detailed plan to work?

THE BARGAIN FROM GENERAL BARAK

Judges 4:8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go. But if you will not go with me, I will not go." (CSB)

Deborah gladly agreed to go along with the general but told Barak that this would limit his honor in the victory. **Please reflect on when you shared honor with one or more others.**

GOD'S BATTLE PLAN UNFOLDS

Judges 4:14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has handed Sisera over to you. Hasn't the LORD gone before you?" (CSB)

Barak and his 10,000 men charged down the mountain facing Sisera with his thousands and his nine hundred iron chariots. The sudden thunderstorm and heavy rain rendered the chariots useless. Barak and his men pursued the fleeing army to their headquarters, none escaped.

Please share how God won a battle for you

CISERA LEFT HIS CHARIOT AND FLED ON FOOT

Judges 4:17 Cisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. (CSB)

Jael greeted the exhausted officer and offered to cover him as he rested. He asked for a drink, and she gave him warm milk. As he slept, she drove a tent peg into his head. When Barak approached, Jael revealed her deed.

Please share a surprise ending God revealed for you.

A PRAYER

LORD, please give me insight into the challenges you have for me. Help me to be faithful in doing your work and serving the people in my life. Give me opportunities to share honor with others. I will give you all the praise. I pray for this in the name of Jesus, Amen!