

# The Judges: Deborah Leads Israel

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## Preview: Girl Power

Deborah is the only female judge in the Bible. Another hero of this story is Jael, a young woman who had the smarts and the guts to eliminate the enemy commander. Deborah says and does what God has told her (**Judges 4:6-7, 14**) and it has a powerful effect. A theme in this passage is that courage is not limited by \_\_\_\_\_.

Key thought: Heroes encourage others to obey God

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 4-5 (Author = Samuel?)

### Judges 4

#### Deborah

**1 When Ehud** [Othniel was the first judge, Ehud was the second judge, Shamgar was the third judge, and Deborah was the \_\_\_\_\_ judge] **was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.**

**3 And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron** [the Old Testament equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_ bombers]

**4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment** [David Guzik: The Bible tells us of several other prophetesses: Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Anna (Luke 2:36), and Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:8-9)].

**6-7** Deborah is challenging this general of Israel (Barak) to do what God has already told him to do. Notice that she is always \_\_\_\_\_ and always encouraging him to \_\_\_\_ what God told him to do.

**8 And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"** [Can everyone clearly see that we need a hero here?]

**16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.** [So how did Israel defeat those chariots of iron? Chariots of iron are heavy and do not work well in the mud. God sent lots and lots of \_\_\_\_\_.]

**21-22 David Guzik:** Of course, there is no defending the treachery of Jael. She broke her promise to Sisera and killed a man that her own husband had made peace with. But, God even used her treachery to accomplish His purposes. Surely, Sisera deserved to die; he fought against God's people. . . . But this does not excuse Jael's personal sin. She will have to answer for it. The lesson for us is important—God can make even the \_\_\_\_\_ of man serve His purposes: **Surely the wrath of man shall praise You (Psalm 76:10a)**. Yet, that *never* diminishes the personal responsibility of the one doing the evil. Judas' betrayal of Jesus served the eternal purpose of God, yet he still had to answer for that evil deed.

## Judges 5

### The Song of Deborah

**1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:**

[a great song that you should read a few times this week]

**So the land had rest for forty years.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Courage is not limited by gender
2. Heroes encourage others to obey God
3. God will use \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish His plan
- 4.

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. God wants to use everyone
2. **Who am \_\_ encouraging to obey God?**
3. Recognize God's hand at all times