

“Bee all that God wants you to Be!”

Judges 4: 1-7 [Message]

“1-3 The People of Israel [God Prevails] kept right on doing evil in God's sight. With Ehud [“I will give thanks: I will be praised” or “undivided, union”] dead, God sold them off to Jabin [“whom God observes”] king of Canaan [lowland] who ruled from Hazor [castle – royal city].

Sisera [“battle array” – meaning an order arranged – an display], who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim [woodland - “cover”] [KJ: “Harosheth of the Gentiles], was the commander of his army.

The People of Israel [God Prevails] cried out to God [Jehovah = “the existing One”] because he had cruelly oppressed them with his nine hundred iron chariots for twenty years. [Note: Stop reading and give details]

4-5 Deborah [“Bee”] was a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth [“torches”] . She was judge [to judge, govern, vindicate] over Israel [“God prevails”] at that time. She held court under Deborah's Palm [Her authority was practiced under “Bee’s” “Tree, post, Column] between Ramah [“Hill”] and Bethel [“House of God”] in the hills of Ephraim [“double ash-heap: I shall be doubly fruitful”].

[Note: What lies between two hills? A Valley – in the valley was the house of God – on one side “*Raman – Hill*” on the other side was “*Ephraim – Double ash-heap - I shall be doubly fruitful!*”

[Note: To be fruitful you must be blessed even in the valley! Learn to be blessed with a Hill on one side and a double ash heap on the other!

The People of Israel [God Prevails] went to her [Deborah - “Bee”] in matters of justice [judgment, justice, ordinance, proper, fitting, measure, fitness, custom, manner, plan]

[Listen: Between two hills – in the valley there is Gods Justice

Judges 4:6-7 “She sent for Barak [“lightning” or “lightning flash”] son of Abinoam [“my father is delight”] from Kedesh [“holy place” – a city in the extreme south of Juda] in Naphtali [“wrestling” – He is the 5th son of Jacob] and said to him, “It has become clear that God, the God [Jehovah – one true God of Israel] of Israel [God Prevails], commands you:

Go to Mount Tabor [mound – mountain- high place] and prepare for battle.

2.

Take ten companies [10 thousand – ten is Gods number for Government – means Law, government, restoration] **of soldiers from Naphtali** [“Wrestling”] **and Zebulun** [“exalted” – He is the 10th of the sons of Jacob].

I'll take care of getting Sisera [“battle array”], **the leader of Jabin's** [“whom God observes”] **army, to the Kishon** [“winding”] **River with all his chariots and troops.**

And I'll make sure you win the battle”

Introduction

- * Have you ever seen a queen bee?
- * They are amazing creatures - they are literally a single parent to hundreds and even thousands of offspring!
- * They have a single brief flight of freedom and then spend the rest of their life inside a hive *generating workers, soldiers, harvesters or pollen gatherers.*

Her whole task is the well being of the hive, to keep it flourishing

- * Her life is one of *consistency, commitment, and contented living!*
- * She works without complaint, she never misses a beat, she lives for the hive - she is the ultimate mother!

Such were the likes of a woman in the Old Testament named Deborah – her name in Hebrew her name means: "A BEE."

- * She was like a Queen mother in Israel.
- * Her life and testimony propelled her into leadership in Israel, a rare thing for a woman under the Old Covenant.

She became a Judge in Israel, but she was not exercising her own authority over men, she exercised God's authority.

- * She is called in the *Bible a prophetess: meaning a woman who spoke God's Word – not her words but God's Word.*
- * She is called a *judge - one who settled disputes by God's laws.*
- * So she was *committed* to God: *To His People: Submitted* to exercising not her authority but God's, God used her to settle disputes.

Not always a popular position of ministry

3.

She is called a wife - the wife of a man named *Lappidoth* whose name means "torches" in Hebrew. [Come on baby light my fire! She had a healthy relationship with a man]
She called herself simply "a mother in Israel" [Judges 5:7]

Like her name, "a bee," she lived a consistent, committed, contented life,

Thus providing both Godly leadership and a Godly example that changed an entire generation of Israelites, leading a war torn nation into 40 years of peace!

One Godly MOM can make a huge difference!
One Godly Mom can still make a difference in a family, a city, a nation, especially a nation that has lost its godly ways.

One person of God who understands what it is to Be all God wants them to Be will usher in the presence of God – The Glory of God!

"BEEING" CONSISTENT! - [*Consistent, Committed, Contented life*]

Judges 4:1-4 [Message]

“ 1-3 The People of Israel [God Prevails] kept right on doing evil in God's sight.

With Ehud ["I will give thanks: I will be praised" or "undivided, union"] dead, God sold them off to Jabin ["whom God observes"] king of Canaan [lowland] who ruled from Hazor [castle – royal city].

Sisera ["battle array" – meaning an order arranged – an display], who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim [woodland - “cover”], was the commander of his army.

The People of Israel [God Prevails] cried out to God because he had cruelly oppressed them with his nine hundred iron chariots for twenty years.

4-5 Deborah [“Bee”] was a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth ["torches"] .
She was judge [to judge, govern, vindicate] over Israel ["God prevails"] at that time.
She held court under Deborah's Palm [Her authority was practiced under “Bee’s” “Tree, post, Column] between Ramah [“Hill”] and Bethel [“House of God”] in the hills of Ephraim ["double ash-heap: I shall be doubly fruitful"]

* Judges 4: 6-7 Tells us - She sent for Barak ["lightning" or "lightning flash"]

* Son of Abinoam ["my father is delight"]

* From Kedesh ["holy place" – a city in the extreme south of Juda]

4.

* In *Naphtali* ["wrestling" – He is the 5th son of Jacob - five meaning Gods Grace!]

Here we Go get this “...and **said to him**

* "**It has become clear that God**

* **the God** [Jehovah – one true God of Israel]

* **of Israel** [God Prevails]

* **commands you:**

* **Go to Mount Tabor** [mound – mountain- high place]

* **and prepare for battle.**

The life and times of Israel at this moment was pathetic!

- * They had drifted back into sin and lost their Godly principles.
- * They had allowed pagan cultures around them to influence them.
- * They were quickly losing their identity as God's chosen people!

The times then were like the times now!

* Godly leadership is important to a nation and a people!

Note

They had learned to copy the wayward ways of the nations around them rather than avoid the idolatry of these wicked nations.

- * They were taken in by the other nation's prosperity and ways.
- * They went where the crowds were, doing what the other nations did!

Illustration

- * ONE MAN IN UTAH HAD BOUGHT A STORE BUT IT WAS NOT DOING WELL.
- * NO ONE CAME INTO HIS STORE TO SEE HIS MERCHANDISE
- * SO HE HAD ALMOST NO BUSINESS.
- * HE WAS ON A MAIN ROAD SO THAT WASN'T THE PROBLEM
- * PEOPLE JUST DIDN'T STOP! ONE DAY HE GOT AN IDEA
- * KNOWING THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE COPY CATS
- * HE WENT OUT AND BOUGHT SEVERAL USED CARS FOR A SONG
- * AND THEN PARKED THEM IN FRONT OF HIS STORE
- * SURE ENOUGH, NOW PEOPLE STOPPED AT HIS STORE
- * AND ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE BEGAN TO BUY HIS STUFF
- * THEY ASSUMED THAT ALL THE CARS OUT FRONT MEANT
- * THAT THIS MUST BE A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP!

Israel was following the crowd like many Christians today that have only a lukewarm faith

5.

Israel needed a voice to speak God's Word and call them to follow God

* With Ehud gone - God calls a woman, a mother in Israel by the name of Deborah!

* Israel grew weary from the domination of the evil nations around them!

Under all this, a weakened Israel *finally broke* and cried out to God!

* Playing around with sin had weakened their national strength.

* Their conformity with the world around them had cost them their spiritual strength and testimony!

Judges 4: 4

“ 4 And *Deborah*, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time”

* Simply A prophetic Voice came forth

* A voice of clarity

* A voice of authority

* A voice of submission

* A voice of unity

* A voice of judgment [setting things in order according to the law of order]

The Word of God tells us that this prophetess the wife of a man who's name means torches judged Israel [God prevails] AT THAT TIME!

* Simply at that TIME!

* Oh, do we ever need a prophets voice AT THIS TIME

* Not everyone wants to hear a prophets voice AT THIS TIME

* Not everyone really wants things put in God order in the house of God

* But never the less – God sends a prophets voice when His people cry out, especially when they are tired and weary because of the weight of sin around them!

Somebody shout – AT THIS TIME!

* A Word Spoken forth

* A Action, God Action took place – Deborah sent for:

6.

She sent for Barak ["lightning" or "lightning flash"]

- * She did not send for just anyone
- * She sent for the *Lightning*
- * She sent for a *flash of Lightning*
- * How many know that it only takes one flash of lightning to make you understand that a very strong power is in the midst! Makes your hair stand on end – your skin, your flesh comes alive under such power.

She sent for the right fire!

- * Notice that this lightning was right in the eyes of his father
- * **Barak** [lighting – lightning flash] was the **Son of Abinoam** [MY FATHER IS DELIGHT]
- * This lightning was right with Father, he delighted in his Father!

She sent for *the right fire that was right with his father* and was from a place **Kedesh** – a holy place.

This right fire that was right with the Father was from a holy place - simply the fire of Holy Presence!

- * Not only Holy Presence
- * But from a city **in the** **EXTREME South of JUDA** [PRAISED]
- * **In Naphtali** ["wrestling" – He is the 5th son of Jacob]

Right Fire!

Right with the Father!

Dwelled in the right house in a Holy Place!

Dwelled in an Extreme Direction of Juda!

Was one who had Wrestling in his blood-line – would not let Go!

Judges 4: 6-7

6-7 She sent for Barak ["lightning" or "lightning flash"] **son of Abinoam** ["my father is delight"] **from Kedesh** ["holy place" – a city in the extreme south of Juda] **in Naphtali** ["wrestling" – He is the 5th son of Jacob] **and said to him,** "**It has become clear that God,** **the God** [Jehovah – one true God of Israel] **of Israel** [God Prevails], **commands you:**

Go to Mount Tabor [mound – mountain- high place] **and prepare for battle.**

7.

Conclusion

She did not Lord over Him the prophetess called for Him and had a God Word for Him!

*** He got stung by the “Bee”**

That God Word was Go to Tabor – go to a high place and prepare for battle!

Today God has a Word for you!

Its time for you to “Bee all that God wants you to Be!”

The right Fire

Right with the Father

Dwelling in a Holy Place

Juda a Worshiper and Extreme Praiser

A God Wrestler – One who will not let Go!

To "bee" consistent, committed, and contented, or not to "bee," that is the question!

Deborah (whose name means, "bee") was a worker, a soldier, a prophetess and a servant of God,

She obeyed the Lord and was used to bring faith at a time of national and moral crisis and the result was that God's name was honored, Israel's enemies were defeated, and the nation had peace for 40 years [a generation of peace – a generation was delivered!]

The Lord would say to you this day

IT IS TIME!

IT IS YOUR TIME!