

Deborah: A Wise and Courageous Mother

Introduction:

- A. Throughout time, God has chosen *“what is weak in the world to shame the strong”* (1 Cor 1:27-29).
- B. His aim? *“To show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us”* (2 Cor 4:7).
- C. One of his great Old Testament “instruments”? Deborah, who *“arose as a mother in Israel”* (Jdg 5:7).

I. Conditions in Deborah’s Day

- A. Spiritual _____ was crumbling Israel from within (Jdg 4:1).
- B. For generations, the people had failed to _____ themselves from evil (Jdg 1:27-36).
- C. *“Everyone did what was right in his _____ eyes”* (Jdg 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).
- D. The LORD _____ them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan (Jdg 4:2-3).

II. God’s Answer to Israel’s Cry for Help

- A. Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, a wise judge in Israel (Jdg 4:4-5).
- B. She _____ in the God who had spoken to Moses and Joshua (Josh 1:6-9).
- C. Deborah had courage enough to _____ to the LORD’s commands (Jdg 4:6-7).
- D. Deborah was willing, not simply to remind and encourage, but to _____ herself (Jdg 4:8-10).
- E. The victory provided by God (Jdg 4:11-5:31).
 - 1. Blessing belongs to the _____ (5:2b; 4:23).
 - 2. _____ were desperately needed in Israel (5:2a).
 - 3. Deborah was willing to arise as a _____ in Israel (5:7).
 - 4. Others were willing to give their lives to a cause _____ than themselves (5:9,18,24).
 - 5. Simply doing _____ can go directly against the will of the Lord (5:23).
 - 6. Never underestimate the power of just _____ person (5:31).
 - 7. *“Awake, Deborah! Arise, Barak!”* (5:12)