

Face to Face

with

Deborah

First Day

Her Story

“But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transformed in ever-increasing splendor into His own image, and this is the work of the Lord who is the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 3:18 PHILLIPS)

The object of our study this week is Deborah. Many women in the Bible have begun well but ended badly – not so with Deborah! It is said that she stands out as the wisest of all the Old Testament women. Deborah was a leader! Her title was judge, her gift was prophesy, her role was leader. She was a woman raised up by God, like Esther, *“for such a time as this.”* Commentator J.B. Lange states: *“History shows many instances where, in times of distress, when men despaired, women arose and saved their nation.”* Deborah was such a woman: able to hear God’s voice, communicate His Word, and inspire the people to follow! We will begin today by looking at what Scripture tells us about Deborah. *This is her story.*

Read the following verses and, in a few sentences, summarize the events described there:

Judges 4:1-10 _____

Judges 4:11-16 _____

Judges 4:17-24 _____

Judges 5 is Deborah's song. Because it is poetry, it is a little more difficult to understand. You may wish to read through the whole chapter first and then to carefully look at each division as given below to help you better understand the passage. Relate the song in chapter 5 to the story in chapter 4. It gives further details as to what exactly took place – how God delivered them, who took part in the battle, etc.

Judges 5:1-5 _____

Judges 5:6-11 _____

Judges 5:12-18 _____

Judges 5:19-23 _____

Judges 5:24-27 _____

Judges 5:28-31 _____

What was Deborah's *affliction*? _____

What was her *deliverance*? _____

What did she *learn*? _____

Second Day

Her Manner

Who is She?

“...Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” (II Peter 1:5-7)

Deborah's name means "bee."

Today we will be looking at the *character* of Deborah. Consider the Scripture you have read on Deborah's life and use the following words to describe her:

- *Her strength*
- *Her weakness*
- *Her courage*
- *Her faith*

See if you can determine something of Deborah's *personality*._____

Name some of the things Deborah did well._____

- In what ways are you like Deborah?
- In what ways are you different than Deborah?
- Does Deborah's life inspire you? Name one element of her life that you would like the Lord to work into your own, and then ask Him to do it!

Third Day

Her Hope

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 NASB)

Today we will focus on Deborah’s *hope*. From what you have studied about her this week:

What was her *need*? _____

What was her *hope*? _____

What was God’s *promise*? _____

God was able to use a wife and mother in Israel to bring light in the midst of the darkness. In Judges 5:6-7 we get a picture of the despair: *“In the days of Jael, the highways were deserted, and travelers went by roundabout ways. The peasantry ceased, they ceased in Israel...”*

God’s promise was *I will deliver*. Would anyone listen? Deborah did! She spoke forth the word to Barak, and we can imagine her repeating those words to anyone who came near: *God plans to deliver us! There is hope! Take courage! Go forth!* Deborah’s greatest hope at the time must have been that the people would listen and follow. Deborah’s hope became Israel’s hope because she believed God’s Word!

- Is there darkness and oppression in any area of your life today? Share what it is.
- Do you have hope in your place of affliction? Why?
- Is there anyone you could influence to have hope and courage in their difficult situation? How will you do this?

Although you may not be a judge, a prophet, or a leader of a nation, if you *truly believe* God’s Word you can greatly affect the hearts and minds of those around you. Your unwavering hope can inspire others to *rise up, take courage, and go forth in faith!*

Memory Verse:

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land...” (Joshua 1:6 NASB). This is our memory verse this week – begin memorizing it today!

Fourth Day

Her Gifts

Have you ever noticed that the women around you who seem to truly love God are wholeheartedly devoted to Him like Deborah was? How about you – is this a desire of your heart? Today you will have the opportunity to chronicle an event in your life in such a way that it results in a *song of praise* to God for who He is and for what He has done on your behalf.

We live in the “information age” when, at the touch of a button, we can access facts about people, places, and things from all walks of life in and around the world. In stark contrast to this we find Deborah, alive at a time when the Law of Moses was still being written on tablets of stone. There was no media to capture people’s attention and it was difficult to chronicle events, since the instruments of writing were awkward and crude. There grew deep in Deborah’s heart a desire to keep the memory of God’s triumph alive forever, but how would she do this? She sang! When God “*fought from the heavens [and] the stars from their courses fought against*” Israel’s enemies (Judges 5:20), Deborah poured forth her praise. She composed the message of her heart into a song that flowed from her lips, a recording for all time of her memorial to God. She thanked Him for His omnipotent power, His righteous acts, and His faithfulness on her behalf.

Clearly, Deborah had fostered a life of faith and commitment that gave her the courage to trust God when called upon to step forward and be used of Him. Do you desire to do great things for God? Are you willing to invest yourself in order to foster the same commitment of faith Deborah had? Below are three essential elements in living a life that will glorify God. Take a moment to evaluate how far you have come in attaining each one and record your comments in the space provided.

To what degree do you genuinely exhibit each of the following....

- *A mind set on knowing God’s Word?*

- *A heart set on seeking God’s way?*

- *A soul set on obeying God’s will?*

Jesus told His followers in Luke 6:45 that “*a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and....out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*” Deborah had much *good treasure* to sing about. Are you able to say the same? It’s time to pull from your own treasure chest and share the good things God has done for you.

Think about a time when God demonstrated His faithfulness and power on your behalf....
What did God do? (Summarize the action God took to help you.)_____

How did He do it? (Be specific)_____

What was the result? (How did the outcome affect you? Did your faith grow? Did you change? Was it a turning point?)_____

*What did you learn through the experience about God's character?*_____

*Did the Lord give you a promise or truth to claim?*_____

*How will this help you the next time you are called upon to exhibit faith in action?*_____

There are many titles we could attribute to Deborah: *Prophetess – Wife – Judge – Poet – Leader of Israel's army*, and one given by God Himself, "*a mother in Israel.*" What title would you give to yourself?_____

What title do you desire for God to place upon you? Why?_____

You have just completed a permanent record of a moment in time when God came to your rescue. You now have it for future reference to remind you of His faithfulness. If you are not in the habit of *journalizing* your walk with Christ, perhaps you would consider starting from this point on. You don't need to write each and every day, just the times when God is doing a work or speaking a word that you want to hold onto and to reflect back on at a future time. Keep your journal entries in a separate notebook in a place nearby that is handy whenever you need a little encouragement. These events will become *stones of remembrance* that will continue to bless you and build your faith.

Let's remember that Deborah was a woman who had a sword in her hand and a song in her heart! Not a bad picture for those of us who desire to be women after God's heart. So gird on your battle sword, pick up your writing pen and get going!

Fifth Day

Her Legacy

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

How will you be remembered? How would you like to be remembered? What will you leave behind of benefit for others? What you do and say today will leave imprints for others to view tomorrow.

Taking a closer look...

- What impression did Deborah leave with you this week?

- How might her example impact women in today's world?

Taking a personal look....

- What did the Lord minister to you about the kind of woman He can use?

- How are you doing in becoming this kind of woman?

Passing it on....

- What lesson from Deborah's life do you consider worth passing on to someone else?

Sixth Day

Your Prayer

Each day this week you have examined up close – face to face – a woman of the Bible: her *story and manner*; her *promise and hope*; her *gifts and legacy*. Throughout the process, as you learned about her, you also learned about yourself.

Now the focus shifts to *Your Prayer*. Each week during your group time you will have the opportunity to pray in agreement with the other ladies for the things you write down on this personalized page. Keep an updated account in the *Praise* list each week as God answers your petitions. This year let's come boldly to His throne and learn to pray the **BIG PRAYER** with expectancy! The only prerequisite for such boldness is being *humble* and *real* in His presence.

Prayer: Write out your prayer for each of the following...

I praise God for (an aspect of His marvelous character) _____

I confess to God _____

I thank God for _____

I ask God for _____

Promise: Write out this week's *promise* in the space provided...and learn to pray this promise from Scripture.

Praise: If God has answered a prayer request for you this week or fulfilled a desire of your heart, please write it out and date it as a stone of remembrance.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, typical of notebook or composition paper. The lines are uniform in thickness and spacing, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

