

A person with long, dark hair is sitting on a grassy bank, looking out at a large body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the scene. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The background shows a calm lake and distant hills under a clear sky.

**DEBORAH**

FAMILY DEVOS

# Deborah

**Scripture:** Judges 4:1-10

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 19:14

“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

## For My Family

The cycle started all over again! The Israelites forsook the One True God and the Lord removed His hand of protection and gave them over to the general of the Canaanite army, a man named Sisera. Much like the Midianites, the Canaanite army was very strong. Though they didn't have a vast number of troops that no one could count, instead they had 900 iron chariots, one of the most powerful weapons that you could use in war at that time.

Again the people of Israel cried out to be rescued. This time, however, they didn't cry out to God Himself. They went to the Judge of Israel, who was also a prophetess, a woman by the name of Deborah. We see women with the gift of prophecy several times throughout the Bible: Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Kings 22), an unnamed prophetess in Isaiah 8, Anna (Luke 2), and the four daughters of Philip in Acts 21. Paul also tells us in 1 Corinthians 11 that some women receive the gift of prophecy, and that they should be diligent to use it carefully and appropriately. A prophet, or prophetess, is someone who hears the Word of God and then speaks it to the people. In other words, they are a spokesperson for God.

When the people came to her and asked what to do, Deborah's response was just wonderful. She said, “Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded ‘Go and deploy troops... and I will deliver *Sisera* into your hand?’” Deborah almost seemed a little surprised. It's as if she was saying, “What do you mean, ‘What should we do?’ God has already told you to go fight this guy. So go and do what God already told you.” Deborah didn't try and come up with a fancy new idea, and she didn't try to out-think God. She simply told the people to do what God had already said. She also knew her role. She was the Judge and Prophetess of Israel. She wasn't a warrior to go fight the battle like Gideon, so she told the warriors, especially their leader (a man named Barak) to go up and fight, and God would lead them to victory.

God spoke to Deborah, and then she spoke those same words of salvation and hope to the people. God has spoken to us. His Word is recorded for us in the Bible. Like Deborah, we can know God's Word and then speak those words of salvation and hope to the people around us. We don't have to receive a special message from God to be His spokesperson. All we need to do is read, learn, and remember God's Word, and then tell it to the people around us who don't know it.

## Questions for Young Children:

What is a prophet (or prophetess)?

What message did Deborah give to the People of Israel?

How has God spoken to us?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Are you surprised to see a woman as the Judge over Israel? Why or why not?

How did Deborah honor God with the words that she spoke to the people of Israel?

What Bible verses do you have memorized that you could share with people who don't know God?