

# Deborah

**Phonetic Spelling: *Devora***

**Meaning: *Bee***

Whilst Deborah's name means bee, it is interesting to note that her name comes from a root Hebrew word, ***debar* - H1696**, which means to speak or to command or to pronounce. There are other words in the Bible translated as speak other than ***debar***, but there context is slightly different. When the word ***debar*** is used which has a phonetic pronunciation ***davar***, it represents more of a command or pronouncement as opposed to ***amar*** which is like speaking to a friend.

When we understand the root of the word and the way it was transformed to create a name it gives us a greater understanding. A '***commanding bee***' is none other than the Queen bee. The hive centers around the queen bee. This is position that the Lord called Deborah to occupy as the fourth judge of Israel. She was preceded by Othniel, Calebs younger brother, Ehud, the left hand swordsman, Shamgar who killed six hundred philistines with an ox goad.

Deborah was indeed an outstanding woman and prophetess of the Lord. Her name describes her main calling. Israel was scattered throughout the Land because of there idolatry. God raised her up to bring his people back to him and to deliver them. She was given the task to call the man whom God had chosen to fight for Israel. As a mother in Israel she was to nurture and groom them back to what God had intended them to be and she was indeed loved and respected by all. This is what the Bible says about her.

## **Judges 4:1-5**

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead.

2 And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3 And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

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

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

### **Quote From - Daughters of God**

Deborah the prophet governed Israel during the reign of Jabin, a Canaanite king who was very cruel to the children of Israel. Life in the villages was harsh. The people were plundered and fled to the fortified cities for protection. Then the Lord raised up Deborah, who was like a loving mother to Israel. God sent a message through her to Barak that he should prepare to meet Sisera, Jabin's general, in battle. Barak refused to go unless Deborah went with him. She agreed, but warned him that because of his lack of faith in the words of the Lord, the honor of killing Sisera would go to a woman, not to Barak. {DG 36.5}

The Israelites, having again separated themselves from God by idolatry, were grievously oppressed by [their] enemies. The property and even the lives of the people were in constant danger. Hence the villages and lonely dwellings were deserted, and the people congregated in the walled cities. The highroads were unoccupied, and the people went from place to place by unfrequented byways. At the places for drawing water, many were robbed and even murdered, and to add to their distress, the Israelites were unarmed. Among forty thousand men, not a sword or a spear could be found. {DG 37.1}

For twenty years, the Israelites groaned under the yoke of the oppressor; then they turned from their idolatry, and with humiliation and repentance cried unto the Lord for deliverance. They did not cry in vain. There was dwelling in Israel a woman illustrious for her piety, and through her the Lord chose to deliver His people. Her name was Deborah. She was known as a prophetess, and in the absence of the usual magistrates, the people had sought to her for counsel and justice. {DG 37.2}

God spoke to his prophetess and she willingly complied with his requests. She was obedient to his will and he rewarded her with victory. Just because as women you are not an ordained elder or pastor, should you live anyhow? Because you are not the priest of the home should you not study your Bible and pray for yourself, God forbid. God is calling women both young and old to have a relationship with him. Deborah was a woman of piety and the Lord used her. The character as women that you should have in this time is that of Deborah, throw the character of Jezebel out the window.

Deborah was not a fearful woman, but was ready for battle. Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, was chosen by God to lead the people to victory in battle. Barak accepted the call but his faith was weak because he looked at his present circumstances, but it is not where we are and what are the conditions around us that determine whether or not we will get the victory but it is in whose name we are going in and his name is Jehovah, Yahweh, The Lord God Almighty. He will win the battle for us.

Now is not the time to be fearful but to be faithful. If the Lord says it it will come to pass.

### **Isaiah 55:11**

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Barak faith staggered because he had poorly armed men.

### **Quote from - Daughters of God**

Barak knew the scattered, disheartened, and unarmed condition of the Hebrews, and the strength and skill of their enemies. Although he had been designated by the Lord Himself as the one chosen to deliver Israel, and had received the assurance that God would go with him and subdue their enemies, yet he was timid and distrustful.

He accepted the message from Deborah as the word of God, but he had little confidence in Israel, and feared that they would not obey his call. He refused to engage in such a doubtful undertaking unless Deborah would accompany him, and thus support his efforts by her influence and counsel.

Deborah consented, but assured him that because of his lack of faith, the victory gained should not bring honor to him; for Sisera would be betrayed into the hands of a woman.... {DG 37.4}

Should we be faithless at this time in earth's history. Should we be found stumbling at the promises of God. God has called us to lead and it is our duty by faith to answer the call. The odds will always be against us. The enemy will always look better equipped and better skilled than we are. Does that however determine the outcome of the engagement, No! Every situation we must face, every trial we must go through is it not in the hands of our loving Father, will he not fight for us. Should we rob God of his Glory through our faithlessness. Should not his name be exalted by our faithfulness and steadfastness. He calls us to rise up and meet the enemy that out-numbers us, an enemy that seems formidable. Is finances our enemy, health challenges, covid-19.

Barak faith buckles, but Deborah is steadfast and shew knows God will give Israel the victory.

### **Judges 4:10-17**

And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh.

12 And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor.

13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 And the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

17 Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

### **Quote from - Daughters of God**

The Israelites had established themselves in a strong position in the mountains, to await a favorable opportunity for an attack. Encouraged by Deborah's assurance that the very day had come for signal victory, Barak led his army down into the open plain, and boldly made a charge upon the enemy. The God of battle fought for Israel, and neither skill in warfare, nor superiority of numbers and equipment, could withstand them. The hosts of Sisera were panic-stricken; in their terror they sought only how they might escape. Vast numbers were slain, and the strength of the invading army was utterly destroyed. The Israelites acted with courage and promptness; but God alone could have discomfited the enemy, and the victory could be ascribed to Him alone.

{ DG 38.1 }

When Sisera saw that his army was defeated, he left his chariot, and endeavored to make his escape on foot, as a common soldier. Approaching the tent of Heber, one of the descendants of Jethro, the fugitive was invited to find shelter there. In the absence of Heber, Jael, his wife, courteously offered Sisera a refreshing draught, and opportunity for repose, and the weary general soon fell asleep. { DG 38.2 }

God's word is always sure and God fought for his people that day as he hath declared through his prophetess Deborah. Sisera was defeated and he thought to escape by foot however he jumped as we would say, from the frying pan into the fire. Deliverance from our enemies can come from anywhere at anytime. Sisera thought that he was going to the home of an ally only to be placed in to the hands of death. Satans plans for God's people always collapses and will always collapse when God sets his face to deliver us. We must be ready for his deliverance and when he calls us to go forth we must accept it by faith.

The Lord's word as declared by his prophetess was true. Sisera was killed by Jael and so the honor went to a woman and not Barak.

#### **Judges 4:18-24**

18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.

19 And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.

20 Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No.

21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

22 And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.

23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

24 And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

#### **Quote from - Daughters of God**

Jael was at first ignorant of the character of her guest, and she resolved to conceal him; but when she afterward learned that he was Sisera, the enemy of God and of His people, her purpose changed. As he lay before her asleep, she overcame her natural reluctance to such an act, and slew him by driving a nail through his temples, pinning him to the earth. As Barak, in pursuit of his enemy, passed that way, he was called in by Jael to behold the vainglorious captain dead at his feet—slain by the hand of a woman. { DG 38.3 }

Deborah celebrated the triumph of Israel in a most sublime and impassioned song. She ascribed to God all the glory of their deliverance, and bade the people praise Him for His wonderful works. She called upon the kings and princes of surrounding nations to hear what God had wrought for Israel, and to take warning not to do them harm. She showed that honor and power belong to God, and not to men, or to their idols. She portrayed the awful exhibitions of divine power and majesty displayed at Sinai. She set before Israel their helpless and distressed condition, under the oppression of their enemies, and related in glowing language the history of their deliverance. — { The Signs of the Times, June 16, 1881. DG 38.4 }

In these last days we must face sisera and his army of iron chariots. Will we now not call on the Lord for deliverance. Will we not put away every idol and everything that would take away our focus from our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Revelation 12:17**

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Does God have a woman in this time like Deborah to call his people back to righteousness. To call his chose ones out of Idolatry. To call those far and wide back to the truth .

As a church are we not the woman of Christ, given the mandate to call those who would heed his call from far and near. If we are to give such a call, if we are to go, what type of people ought we to be.

### **2 Peter 3:9-14**

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Just like Deborah as Jesus's bride, we must possess the piety, faithfulness and steadfastness of Deborah even in the face of life's greatest challenges. We are called to be faithful amidst apostasy. Even through the final breakdown. This is the final repeat. Will our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ find us abiding in him as a branch of the true vine. Will we be victorious.

Paul Says:

### **1 Corinthians 9: 25-27**

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Are we striving for the mastery, to be temperate in all things. What do we want? forgiveness or forgiveness with the power to overcome. God in his mercy is offering us a seat in his throne.

### **Revelation 3:21**

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

This evening Deborah has thought us that our faithfulness will be rewarded. The joy in this life is the walk with Jesus day by day. This is our greatest privilege and should be our every desire and every obstacle, hindrance will gradually disappear. Should satan be knocking us out with the same left hook for the last twenty years? Is there no victory in Jesus. This evening I want to leave you with a verse that has taken on new meaning in my life.

### **2 Chronicles 15:7**

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

In the words of Isaiah the prophet of the Lord I encourage you...

**Isaiah 40:29-31**

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Kneel in prayer right now and ask God for the Spirit of Christ to start or continue the work in you that is necessary for this time. To convict of sin, genuine Holy Spirit lead repentance followed by a conversion so that we may have the ***faith of Jesus***.

Amen...