

Pastor's Class  
May 26, 2010  
People of Faith: Deborah  
Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Review

Micah: Name means, "Who is like the Lord."

Good Shepherd Image

Bethlehem

Way of the Faithful

Book of Judges – 7<sup>th</sup> Book of the Old Testament

Timeframe: Between Moses/Joshua and David/Solomon

1200 to 1000 BC

Judge is a leader of Israel

Leadership included but not limited to...

Military, Judicial, Spiritual

As a noun, "judge" only appears once in the book of Judges

Book presents 12 leaders

Deborah, 1 of the 12

Her Story is told in chapters 4 & 5

Wife of Lappidoth

Canaan was attacking Israel

Successfully mobilizes the Israelite militia

Outnumbered, Deborah with Barak leads them to victory

Chapter 4 – Narrative

Chapter 5 – Poetry

Judges 4: 4-10

<sup>4</sup>At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup>She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. <sup>6</sup>She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup>I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'" <sup>8</sup>Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." <sup>9</sup>And she said, "I will

surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup>Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

### **Gender is not important to God when it comes to leadership**

Deborah is Female

In peace, she settles disputes

She ensures justice for the people

She is sought out for her help

In war, she coordinates the plan

She selects the leaders

She creates the strategy

Gifts: Wisdom, Discernment and Honesty

People recognize her great gifts

Capacity, not gender, is how God selects leaders

Female Clergy

### **Courage is a Quality of a Faithful Leader**

Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the ability to embrace fear

Deborah embraced fear

Fear of loss, capture and death

She even stood by the commander, Barak

Bishop

Judges 4: 17-24

<sup>17</sup>Now Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between King Jabin of Hazor and the clan of Heber the Kenite.

<sup>18</sup>Jael came out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no fear." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.

<sup>19</sup>Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink; for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. <sup>20</sup>He said to her, "Stand at the entrance of the tent, and if anybody comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'" <sup>21</sup>But Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, until it went down into the ground — he was lying fast asleep from weariness — and he died. <sup>22</sup>Then, as Barak came in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went into her tent; and there was Sisera lying dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

<sup>23</sup>So on that day God subdued King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites.  
<sup>24</sup>Then the hand of the Israelites bore harder and harder on King Jabin of Canaan,  
until they destroyed King Jabin of Canaan.

### **God Active in History**

Judges Make a Bold Statement: Ours is a God of History  
Outnumbered Israel Prevails  
Sisera dies an inglorious death  
Declaration: Verse 23 – God Subdues Israel’s Enemies  
1989

### **Next Program Year**

What do you want to learn about?  
Church History  
Books of the Bible  
Specific People in the Bible  
Lutheranism  
Other Topics  
Other Times

Thanks!