

**Old Testament Characters: Deborah**  
**Judges 4:1-7**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the judge Deborah.

Intro: 1. When one thinks of Deborah we sometimes think of her as simply one of the judges.  
2. She was a judge that reminded people to obey God.

I. Deborah the necessary Judge.

A. The people cried out to God. (**Judges 4:3**)

1. The people cry out to God for aide.
2. We find that Deborah would provide the answer.

B. The period of the judges (**Judges 4:4-5**)

1. This was a time when God set up a man to judge the people of Israel.
2. However, during this period God used Deborah to judge the people.
  - a. The Bible says she was a judge, this does not mean she was a proclaimer of God's word.

II. Barak & Deborah

A. Deborah's wisdom

1. Deborah advised Barak to remember the commands of God (**Judges 4:6-7**).
2. Her wisdom was the same we would give anyone today, remember what God said and do it! (**Judges 4:6a**)

B. Barak had no courage.

1. He would only go if Deborah came with him. (**Judges 4:8**)
  - a. His reply showed a lack of courage & a lack of obedience to God's commands.
2. Deborah then reminds Barak that he will have no glory from the battle. (**Judges 4:9a**)
3. She reminds him that God has sold Sisera into the hands of a woman (Jael, **Judges 4:21**).

III. Lessons for us today.

A. There is always wisdom in obeying God's commands.

1. Deborah reminded Barak of this at the beginning.
2. Such advice was one reason why she was judging Israel.
  - a. She gave godly advice and emphasized obedience to God's commands (**Judges 4:6a**).

B. Deborah's role does not qualify female leadership in the church today.

1. The O.T. is not our authority for what is done in the church today.
2. Though Deborah functioned as a judge, it is not equal to a role a preacher today.
  - a. Israel came to her for judgment **NOT** for the proclamation of God's word. (**Judges 4:5; 5:7**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Deborah was a judge because she was a godly woman.
  - a. Some say she was a judge because no men were worthy to be a judge.
  - b. Whatever the reason, she was a judge that emphasized follow God and remember His commands.
2. We would be wise to heed her simple but important reminder.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9