

Year A #185
Deborah's Prophecy
040204-5

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are going to speak about Deborah today. The Scriptures tell us in **Judges chapter 4 verse 4** that she was a prophetess. For those of you who have followed for the past few days, you know she is the fifth of the prophetesses that we read are in the Bible.

4 And Deborah, a prophetess . . . she judged Israel at that time.

You have to understand the background of what was going on when you read a verse like that. There was absolute chaos in the land. People were being raised up to undertake and to try to bring it together, because they were not under the correct headship of the Lord God Almighty. Therefore, she was a prophetess, in that which speaks of the barrenness going on in the country.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-el in mount Ephraim . . .

She was there because of the people that would come. This woman was one day visited when there was a battle going on and she was asked to go and take care of what was happening. She said, "Hey, you know, this is not for me!"

8 And Barak. . . -the man - . . . said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. And it was as clear as that. (Actually, reflecting on Ruth and Naomi — Ruth said, "I do not want to go anywhere else but where

you are going.” It is the same thought of I want you there.) But this was a rather strange situation, because it should have been the man going into that situation, into this battle. So she made it pretty clear. She said, “You know, if you really want me to go, then the Lord is going to take down the enemy through the hand of a woman.” It was a very strange situation. What actually happened was that there was this evil person, Sisera. He was in battle and then later managed to escape.

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 *-this evil person.*

What happened was that Deborah saw the authority of the headship of God Almighty, that He was able to do this. Where there were weak knees in people like Barak, Deborah had a faith in the living God. When she said these words, she was a prophetess, because the Lord brought this thing to pass.

17 Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet . . . Everybody was in hot pursuit! I imagine it was hot in the country and hot pursuit in following. But Sisera managed to get to a place where there was a woman who was called Jael. (Little did he know he was going into a jail!) The tent was that of a woman who was a Kenite. When Sisera arrived, he told the woman, “I am so tired and worn out, I am going to

lay down. You watch out for me! If anybody comes and asks if I am around, you say 'No, no, not near here!' In other words, 'You lie for me. You watch for me !' And he called on this woman to do this. He was exhausted and went into the tent and said, "Give me water," but, you know, she didn't give him water. When you are very very thirsty, you want water, but what she did was to give him milk and that really bogs a person down. Before we know, here he was laying down and he was fast asleep! Then we read in **verse 21** -

21 Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a nail of the tent . . . -one of those big, wooden nails that held the tent up - . . . and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it to the ground - what a horrible death! - 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 show thee the man whom thou seekest. . . And the woman showed Barak that she had dealt with the enemy. In other words, there were all these soldiers, all these thousands of soldiers, and Barak is supposed to be in charge. He had obeyed not the voice of God, but he had obeyed somebody he thought would help him get through to God.

In other words, if we do not have that living relationship with the Lord God and we are in a difficult situation, we think, "Oh, if only we could have them over here or if only we could have that speaker here come

or if only this situation could happen, everything would be fine, and I am going to feel pretty secure that way! Oh, I will fall in and do what they say.” We do not know what it is to have the voice of God through our lives.

Therefore, God used this as a rebuke to Barak. He had said it would be a woman who would take the enemy. That was a dishonor to Barak. This woman had taken care of a situation where it seems all these thousands we read of could not handle it. God used the woman, because she pointed him back to God who gave the wisdom of what to do.

What about your life? Will you trust God totally yourself for all that He is?

In Christ Jesus. Amen.