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# East Columbus Bulletin

## Deborah, The Prophetess Judge

A study of the Judges would not be complete without a study of Deborah. After all, she is the iconic anomaly, a woman leader among God's people. The Lord knows that the present generation needs some clarification on manhood and womanhood. The Bible is the place to go for it.

America has been a nation for about 250 years, but the nation of Israel was led by "judges" for 450 years in the beginning. This period was significant, proving to the people that they needed God and His deliverers (judges). When God became sick at heart because of the pitiful pleas of repentant Israel (Judges 10:13-16), He raised up deliverers like Jephthah, Samson, Gideon, etc. to drive out the oppressors and their idolatrous practices. The Judges each had their weaknesses as men, but the Spirit of the Lord would come upon them, and they were valiant.

Deborah the Prophetess sat under the Palm Tree in Bethel and judged the people. (Judges 4:5) She had somehow won their hearts. Through the Spirit she called Barak, the commander of the armies of Zebulun and Naphtali, saying, "*Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded saying 'Go and draw near Mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Nephtali and of the children of Zebulun; and I will draw unto thee Sisera the captain of Jabin's army with his chariots and his multitude to the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into thine hands!*" (4:6-7) Barak said he would go, under the condition that Deborah would go with him. "*She said, I will surely go with thee.*"

### Times of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- **The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study** -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
- **Young Bible Scholars** --To be announced.
- **Lady's Bible Classes at YMCA** – To be announced.
- **Don't forget homebound members can view the Sunday Bible Class live (9:00 a.m.) and Sunday Sermon (about 10:20 a.m.) on Facebook on the public East Columbus church of Christ Facebook page or view afterwards streaming anytime.**

### News and Notes

- **Prayer Requests:** Doug and Pat Wheeler, Steve Coburn, and Mike Butler, Lee Gallop
- **Others to Remember:** Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler. Willena Woods is in Windsor Place (visits available by appointment only).
- **Sick:** Pat Wheeler is battling pancreatic cancer. Steve Coburn had successful hip surgery 9/28. Benny Parker had successful foot surgery 9/28. Wade McCrary is recovering from a shoulder injury. Lee Gallop was recently hospitalized and is now home recuperating.
- **Moving Away** – David and Debbie McGee are moving to North Alabama. Brandon, Kim, Sawyer, and Naomi Solomon are moving to Italy for Brandon's next Air Force assignment. In their honor, there will be a "going away" potluck gathering at the Community Center in Vernon on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Births** –Emilia Rose Parker, born 9/18 to Mallory and Brody Parker. Grandparents are Melissa and Benny Parker.

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*Notwithstanding, the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honor for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh."* (4:9)

Sisera the enemy was delivered to a woman, but not to Deborah, to Jael, the wife of Heber, a descendant of Moses' father-in-law, who had apparently refrained from the battle, being at peace with the enemy, Jabin, King of Hazor. Friendship with the world makes God's people weak, double-minded, compromising. Jael, a woman, had the courage to put an end to the enemy of God's people.

There was something about that generation which shunned manhood, which forced the women to take the lead. What was it with Barak who would not go into battle without Deborah? Was he a mamma's boy: or did he not appreciate the soldier's glory at winning a victorious battle? What was it with Sisera, who fled from the field of battle to hide in the house with a woman sitting watch for the enemy? When people forsake the Lord the outcomes in society take on strange shapes, like gender-twisting, role swapping, and other perversions. Artistic and creative men and women are not happy with the natural order. They have to experiment.

*"For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."* (Rom 1 :26-27, ESV) The following verses are a long list of other ungodly traits and acts which, unfortunately, look more and more like the world we live in.

Men, you have a God-given responsibility to work, to provide for your family, and to protect those who are dependent on you.

*"For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat." (2 Thess 3:10)*  
*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for*

*members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. "* (1Tim 5:8) "

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."  
(1Cor 16:13)

There are setbacks, encouragements, and complications. These passages, and so many others, lay out your responsibilities and the direction you should be going in your family. Do not drink from the fountain of "Two and a half men," "Who's the Boss," and other such ilk produced by the sick minds in Hollywood. Their fruits will be "house husbands" and drones, not the kind of men we read about in the Bible.

Women, your primary responsibilities are in the home.

*"So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. "* (1Tim 5:14) *"Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled."* (Tit 2:3-5)

What happens in the world does not stay in the world - it usually finds its way into the church. These passages, and others, outline basic principles for happy homes. Worldly trends, the battle of the sexes, and too much time on the hands will work the devil's business, not the things pertaining to the kingdom of heaven. Please take God's word seriously.

As we said, Deborah was an anomaly. She was the exception to the rule of male leadership. However, the exception to the rule does not nullify the rule. (Mt 19:9) In the "hall of fame of the faithful" (Hebrews 11), Deborah is not found, but rather, Barak is listed, along with other judges like Gideon, Samson, and Jephthah. May God bless His children who make the best of unfortunate situations. And help us all to honor God's plan for man-woman relationships. With His help, we can do it.

George Hutto, Tidings, Vol. 35, No. 7, July 2021