

# The Broadmoor Bulletin

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## Deborah and Barak

### Lessons from the Battlefield (Judges 4:12 – 24)

The book of Judges depicts the truth of the old adage that history repeats itself. In peace Israel rebelled against God, and when they were oppressed the Israelites cried out to the Lord, causing the Lord to send a deliverer. For example, after God delivered Israel from the Philistines by the hand of Shamgar, Israel again sinned, resulting in oppression at the hands of Jabin, king of the Canaanites. God used Deborah and Barak to lead Israel into battle against Jabin and his commander, Sisera. Each deliverance demonstrated God's power and purpose. Consider some vital lessons learned from the battlefield.

1. *God is in control of world affairs.* It was the Lord who sold the Israelites into the hands of Jabin (4:2), and it was God who was able to deliver them (4:6-7). Man has free will, but what he accomplishes with his choices cannot overturn the purposes of God (2 Chron. 20:5-6). Despite the efforts of Jabin and his army, they were not more powerful than God.
2. *God can use men and women to accomplish His purposes.* God used a reluctant commander and two women to gain military victory against a strong Canaanite army (4:8-9). They may not have been the most ideal candidates for military victory, but God could still use them to accomplish what he desired. If we are willing, God can strengthen us for service (1 Tim. 1:12-14).
3. *There is victory in the Lord.* Sisera had 900 chariots and a large army. From all appearances, they were the superior army, and they should have routed the Israelites. However, God was on Israel's side. Even when victory looks bleak from a human standpoint, there is always victory in the Lord (Rom. 8:31).

There is still a battle waging, albeit of a different nature (2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 6:10-12). Our fight is with Satan and his forces in a spiritual warfare, and we must make sure that we are on the Lord's side!

**Jeremy Sweets**

LORD, when You went out from Seir,  
When You marched from the field of Edom,  
The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped,  
Even the clouds dripped water.  
The mountains quaked at the presence of the LORD,  
This Sinai, at the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel.

**Judges 5:4 – 5**

### Deborah: The Importance of Women Who Are Willing to Speak God's Word in a Way that Honors God

Because the Israelites chose to do evil, God allowed them to be oppressed by Jabin, the king of Canaan (Judges 4:1 – 3). God gave revelation to Deborah at this time, for the Bible calls her a prophetess (4:4). Deborah used this gift that God gave her to help her people by providing them judgments based on the revelation that God gave her (4:4 – 5). Godly women today can learn lessons from the example of Deborah.

1. Deborah did not try to take Barak's place as the commander of the Israelite army. She was instead willing to encourage him to obey God's command. Contrary to today's politically correct philosophy, God has created men and women with different roles. Women are not to be the teachers when men and women are assembled together to worship God (1 Corinthians 14:34 – 35). Women are not permitted to teach or exercise authority over men (1 Timothy 2:11 – 15). These prohibitions do not prevent women from exercising influence. I think that many women underestimate the power of their words to encourage or discourage. Barak might not have gone to fight Sisera without the encouraging words of Deborah. Priscilla helped her husband Aquila explain the way of God more accurately to Apollos (Acts 18:25 – 26).
2. Deborah was willing to accompany Barak even in the face of potential danger. When God created man, He said that it was not good for man to be alone, and He created woman to be a helper to man (Genesis 2:18, 21 – 24). Godly men can be blessed greatly by wives who are willing to join with them and support them in the Lord's work. A godly wife does her husband good all the days of her life (Proverbs 31:12).
3. Deborah gave advice or judgments based on God's word. God made men and women different in the way that they think. Men tend to approach situations from a logical perspective whereas women tend to approach situations from a relational and intuitive perspective. Because they think differently, women are able to see some applications of God's work more quickly than men. A godly husband will seek to grow in his understanding of his wife's thoughts and value the different perspectives that she can bring to situations (1 Peter 3:7). A godly woman speaks wise and kind words (Proverbs 31:26).

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# Deborah

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We also see in Scripture that women play a vital role in teaching other women, in training children, and in showing compassion and mercy. Women can teach other women in a way that men cannot because they have first-hand experience in being a woman. Older Christian women have a vital role to fill in training younger Christian women to effectively care for their husbands and their children. If they fail to fulfill this role, God's word may be blasphemed (Titus 2:3 – 5). Timothy was enriched and equipped by the faith training that he received from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15). Since women are created by God to be motherly, they often excel in showing compassion and mercy. Godly women help the poor and needy (Proverbs 31:20). Tabitha or Dorcas abounded in deeds of kindness and charity (Acts 9:36, 39). Widows worthy of support from the church were those who had shown hospitality to strangers, washed the feet of the saints, assisted those in distress, and devoted themselves to every good work (1 Timothy 5:10).

Godly women can exert a great influence for good. We all need to strive diligently to fulfill the roles God has created for us. We were created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10). Let us all strive to be rich in good works and store up eternal treasure (1 Timothy 6:18 – 19).

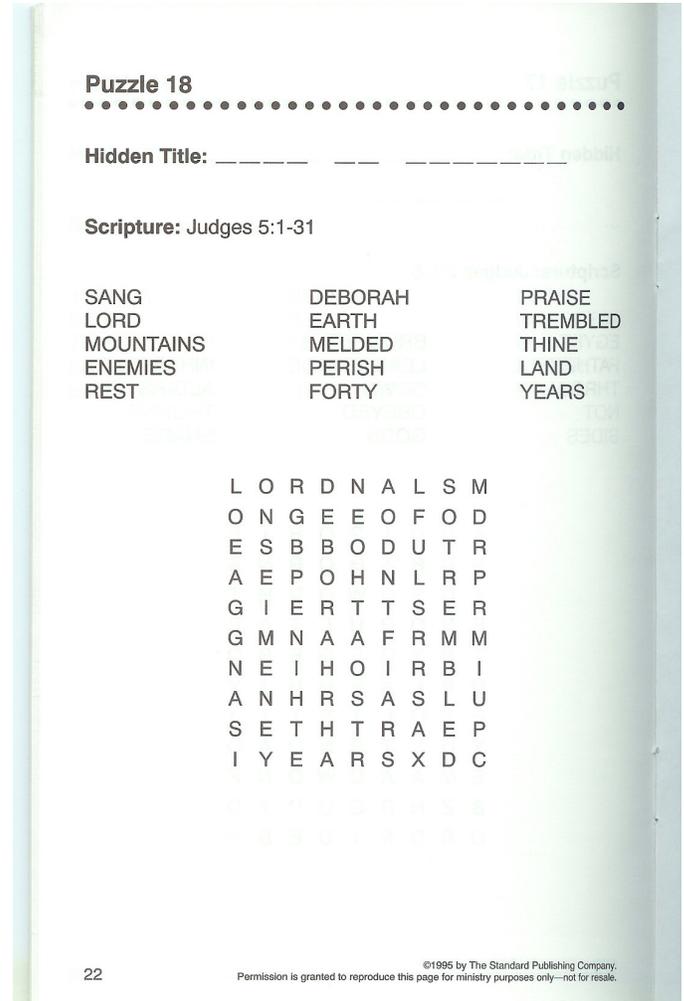
**Gilbert Booher**

## ??Did You Know??

1. Deborah is the only woman mentioned as a judge of Israel.
2. Jabin, king of Canaan, had 900 iron chariots in his military armory, and he severely oppressed Israel for 20 years (Judges 4:2 – 3).
3. Hebrews 11:32 mentions Barak as an example of great faith in God.
4. Jael's husband Heber was a descendant of Moses' father-in-law (Judges 4:11).
5. Barak's name means "lightning," and Deborah's name means "a bee."
6. Deborah and Barak praised God in song for their great victory (Judges 5).
7. Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, was killed by the woman Jael. Other military leaders whose deaths were brought about by a woman are Abimelech (Judges 9:52 – 54) and Sheba, the son of Bichri (2 Samuel 20:1 – 2, 14 – 22)

**Adam Booher**

The hidden title for the puzzle is spelled out by the uncircled letters in the solved puzzle.



# Barak

Because of his fear, Barak did not receive the honor for ridding Israel of their enemy Sisera (Judges 4:8 – 9). The devil prowls about like a roaring lion trying to instill fear in us so that we will not accomplish the work God wants us to do (1 Peter 5:8). God does not want us to give in to our fears. He has given us a spirit of power, love, and discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). When we remember that the Lord is our helper, we can conquer our fears and recognize that no man can separate us from God's love (Hebrews 13:5 – 6). If Esther had allowed her fears to keep her from going before the king, she likely would have perished, and God would have provided deliverance for His people through some other means (Esther 4:13 – 14). We each have been given unique opportunities to do good works. Let us with God's help overcome our fears and devote our lives in service to Christ who suffered to purchase our redemption.

**Gilbert Booher**