



BIBLE STUDY

Deborah

Mighty Woman In Battle

The Book of Judges Chapters 4 and 5 chronicles an interesting battle between Israel and Canaan, the key highlights being the role Deborah played. Deborah was married (very likely also had children), a prophetess and a ruler in Israel. Beyond that, she also understood battle strategies.

We may not be in a physical battle, but there are principles we can draw from the strategies in this book.

Stay connected as we review these strategies and how we can apply them in our lives.



Day 1

Whose Battle Is It?

'Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;'" Judges 4:6

We are introduced to Deborah as she sent for Barak to give him instructions to go to battle with the ruling government of the day. This would have been a very risky thing to do as the Israelites were essentially going against an army that had much more sophisticated weaponry than they did.

However there was a key factor that tilted the battle in their favour, "Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded..." Because it was God who initiated the battle, they were guaranteed victory as the Lord Himself would provide the strategy for success.

'For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.' 2 Corinthians 10:3

'Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.' Psalm 147:5

Strategy: Turn the battle over to God.

Today's Application: What battles are you fighting today – in your home, office, school, business? Are you trying to figure it all out by yourself? You have a unique advantage as a child of God to bring Him into the matter by laying the issue at His feet and asking for His direction. Please note that it's not enough just to ask, you also have to be ready to wait for His response and be willing do what He says.

God has more ways to fix a problem than you could ever imagine. Don't limit yourself to functioning in your wisdom alone. The Holy Spirit knows all things, ask Him to give you the strategy to respond accurately to the situation you're facing.

Day 2

Pick Your Battles

'And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!" So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.' Judges 4:8-9

When it was time to go to battle, Barak was very likely afraid and so insisted on Deborah going with him. Remember he was up against a much stronger army and having Deborah with him would provide some comfort, after all as a prophetess she was the one who had received the instruction from God.

Two things to learn here. First is that success in battle does not mean the absence of fear, neither does it mean we shouldn't reach out for help. Barak didn't want to go into battle alone, so he asked for help. His request was to a prophet and not a fellow soldier because he probably discerned that with what they were up against, the Lord would need to fight on their behalf.

The second thing to note is that Barak still went into battle even though there wouldn't be any glory for him. Rather than focus on that, he looked at what Israel would gain – freedom from the oppressive king.

Strategy: Focus on the big picture

Today's Application: Keeping your eyes on the big picture helps you pick your battles. Things that appear to be a major challenge/issue tend to pale in comparison to a bigger picture. For example, if you want to live/work in a peaceful environment, then you won't necessarily pick on everything your neighbour/spouse/colleague does. This type of focus also helps you know what you should give attention to. For instance, if your goal is to have a dedicated prayer time with God, then you will pay attention to the things that take up your energy and do what is necessary to create time to spend with Him.

Whenever you're faced with a challenge, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what the big picture is from His perspective. This way you know which battle is worth fighting and more importantly what strategy to utilise.



Day 3 Take Action

'Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel.'
Judges 5:7

The Bible notes that Israel had been under severe oppression for about 20 years until Deborah arose and went into battle with Barak. Deborah received a word from God concerning how deliverance would come to Israel hence her summoning Barak to instruct him on what God had commanded.

The point to note here is that once she heard from God, Deborah 'arose' and went into battle. She didn't decline to join Barak because she knew the Lord had already gone ahead and won the battle for Israel. But none of this would have happened if Deborah didn't arise. There are situations we will face in life that will only be altered when we take action.

'Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.' James 2:17

'For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.' Hebrews 4:12

Deborah's faith spurred her into action to join Barak in going to war against Sisera. Please note that this wasn't a matter of guess work: she had received a word from God and she moved based on the confidence she had in the giver of the word.

Strategy: Take action

Today's Application: There are many things we may be believing God for, but we can be confident that if God said it, He will certainly do it. If you want to know what God is saying to you so you know what to do, the Bible is the best place to start. Search out what the Bible says concerning the situation and prayerfully take His word back to Him. The Holy Spirit who guides us into all truths on all matters of life will guide us on what to do. And when he does, we must take action as guided, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us along the best pathway for our life (Psalm 32:8).

Day 4 Spirit First

“They fought from the heavens; The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.” Judges 5:20

The origin of most battles you’re engaged in has little to do with you and more to do with a much larger agenda. The reason we even engage in warfare is because of something that happened long before any of us currently living was born.

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:9

When the devil was cast to the earth, he and his company of demons began seeking to systematically wreak havoc in people’s lives using various methods. While believers are not left out of this evil agenda, the difference is we already have victory through the price Jesus paid for us.

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” I John 4:4

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,” II Corinthians 10:4

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17

Deborah understood that success in the battle wasn’t going to come from anything that can be seen. She faced the battle at its true source: in the spirit. That’s why she could arise and move, confident in the knowledge that God had already given Israel the victory.

Strategy: Always engage the spiritual first

Today’s Application: Before anything happens in the physical, it will already have occurred in the spirit first. Therefore, we should not engage in ‘battle’ as though we are limited to engaging with our five senses. The Bible makes it clear to us that there’s an enemy constantly waging war against us, but we’re not to be afraid because we’re on the winning side. The Bible also gives us clear strategies for engaging in warfare by putting on the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:11). So, before you attempt to respond to any challenges, address the issue in the spirit FIRST.

Day 5

Remember Past Victories

“Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD, The righteous acts for His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the LORD shall go down to the gates.” Judges 5:11

When the issues of life rear their heads, it's easy to get overwhelmed and feel that this battle is beyond you or that all hope is lost. It's at this point that you should begin to recall all the things God has done for you, how He's brought you out of tough situations and resolved issues for you. There's a faith that rises up within you and a strength that comes when you remember that the God who helped you before is still more than capable to help you now and in the future.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

“And they overcame and conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony...” Revelations 12:11a (AMP)

There is power in sharing your testimony of what God has done for you. One of the things it does is to give encouragement to someone else who may be going through a similar challenge. Another thing is that it acts as a reminder of how God has helped you. If He did it before, He can certainly do it again.

Strategy: Recount past victories

Today's Application: Get a journal and document the victories. Write down the ones from the past and commit to documenting more as they occur. It'll be a great source of strength to you in the future.

Recap

We have gone through the Book of Judges Chapters 4 and 5 which illustrated a battle between Israel and Canaan. Here we have seen 5 key strategies which are:

- Recognize whose battle it is
- Don't jump into every battle
- Don't sit idle when things are going on around you, you must take action
- Address issues in the spirit first
- Remember past victories

May the Holy Spirit guide us in all challenges we face so we know what strategy to apply and when.

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Or send us an Email: aheartofwisdom@gmail.com

©Aheartofwisdom

