

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 5

Deborah Judges Israel

Judg. 4-5

Introduction

After the first 3 stories of Israel's "deliverers," **Judg. 4-5** contains the only story about a woman judge. God was able to use the strength of Deborah and the unwillingness of Barak to bring about relief from Canaanite oppression.

One might also say the "other woman" (*Jael*) was the real heroine of this account. Though her personality and station differed from Deborah's, they appeared to share a similar commitment to faithfulness to God.

- 1) What is recorded following Ehud's death? **(4:1)**

- 2) Who did God use next to oppress Israel? **(4:2a)** What had happened to this kingdom previously? **(Josh. 11:1-13)** What is noted that would have made Israel cry out for deliverance? **(4:3)**

- 3) Who is mentioned that God will begin using? **(4:4-5)** Thought question: do you think the selection of a woman says anything about the state of the people at this time?

- 4) What had God revealed to her, and who did she enlist to carry out God's instructions? **(4:6-7)**

- 5) What was Barak's response? **(4:8)** Why do you suppose he responded in this way? Is there any indication it was not a good response? **(4:9)**

