

## Judges 4: The Narrative

### The Cycle: Sin, Servitude, Supplication

<sup>1</sup>And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup>And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. <sup>3</sup>Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

### Deborah: faithful to her roles and giftings

<sup>4</sup>Now Deborah, a **prophetess**, the **wife** of Lappidoth, was **judging** Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup>She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and **the people of Israel came up to her for judgment**.

### The Word of the Lord to Barak through Deborah

<sup>6</sup>She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "**Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you**, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup>**And I will draw out Sisera**, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, **and I will give him into your hand**'?"

### Barak's fear and lack of faith

<sup>8</sup>Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

### Deborah's rebuke and support

<sup>9</sup>And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup>And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

### Just so happens...the Lord coordinates the details

<sup>11</sup>Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh.

### The Victory in Battle (12-16)

<sup>14</sup>And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which **the Lord has given Sisera into your hand**. Does not the Lord go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. <sup>15</sup>And **the Lord routed Sisera** and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.

### Just so happens...fulfilled in the Lord's use of Jael (17-22)

<sup>17</sup>But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

### God's sovereignty and the use of His people for His purposes

<sup>23</sup>So on that day **God subdued Jabin** the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. <sup>24</sup>And the hand of **the people of Israel pressed harder** and harder against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

## Judges 5: The Song of Praise

### Praising the leaders and people of Israel

<sup>2</sup>That the leaders took the lead in Israel,  
that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless the Lord!

<sup>9</sup>My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel  
who offered themselves willingly among the  
people.  
Bless the Lord.

Also verses 13-15, 18: Praise to the tribes of  
Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir, Zebulun, Issachar,  
Naphtali

### Rebuke of the nations who did not fight

<sup>15</sup>Among the clans of Reuben  
there were great searchings of heart.  
<sup>16</sup>Why did you sit still among the sheepfolds,  
to hear the whistling for the flocks?  
Among the clans of Reuben  
there were great searchings of heart.  
<sup>17</sup>Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan;  
and Dan, why did he stay with the ships?  
Asher sat still at the coast of the sea,  
staying by his landings.

### The Lord's victory

<sup>4</sup>Lord, when you went out from Seir,  
when you marched from the region of Edom,  
the earth trembled  
and the heavens dropped,  
yes, the clouds dropped water.  
<sup>5</sup>The mountains quaked before the Lord,  
even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.

<sup>20</sup>From heaven the stars fought,  
from their courses they fought against Sisera.  
<sup>21</sup>The torrent Kishon swept them away,  
the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon.  
March on, my soul, with might!

### Praise the Lord

<sup>3</sup>Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;  
to the Lord I will sing;  
I will make melody to the Lord, the God of  
Israel.

<sup>10</sup>Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,  
you who sit on rich carpets  
and you who walk by the way.  
<sup>11</sup>To the sound of musicians at the watering  
places,  
there they repeat the righteous triumphs of  
the Lord,  
the righteous triumphs of his villagers in  
Israel.

<sup>31</sup>"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD!  
But your friends be like the sun as he rises in  
his might."

## A Portrait of Two Women: Jael and Sisera's mother (24-30)

### Jael

<sup>24</sup>Most blessed of women be Jael,  
the wife of Heber the Kenite,  
of tent-dwelling women most blessed.

### Sisera's Mother

-A sarcastic description of her waiting for Sisera  
to return with the spoil (28-30)

## A Portrait of Two Women: Proverbs

### Lady Folly

Proverbs 5:3-5

<sup>3</sup>For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil,  
<sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,  
sharp as a two-edged sword.  
<sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death;  
her steps follow the path to Sheol

Proverbs 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup>With much seductive speech she persuades  
him;  
with her smooth talk she compels him.  
<sup>22</sup>All at once he follows her,  
as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
or as a stag is caught fast  
<sup>23</sup>till an arrow pierces its liver;  
as a bird rushes into a snare;  
he does not know that it will cost him his life.

Proverbs 7:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;  
do not stray into her paths,  
<sup>26</sup>for many a victim has she laid low,  
and all her slain are a mighty throng.  
<sup>27</sup>Her house is the way to Sheol,  
going down to the chambers of death.

### Lady Wisdom

Proverbs 3:13-18

<sup>13</sup>Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,  
and the one who gets understanding,  
<sup>14</sup>for the gain from her is better than gain from  
silver  
and her profit better than gold.  
<sup>15</sup>She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup>Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup>Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup>She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of  
her;  
those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Proverbs 31

<sup>10</sup>An excellent wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
  
<sup>12</sup>She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.  
  
<sup>17</sup>She dresses herself with strength  
and makes her arms strong.  
  
<sup>25</sup>Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
<sup>26</sup>She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
  
<sup>30</sup>Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be  
praised.  
<sup>31</sup>Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the gate

## A Portrait of Two Women: Revelation

### The Great Prostitute

Revelation 17:1-2, 4

“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

<sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Revelation 18:3-5

<sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk

the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,

and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,

and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.

<sup>4</sup> Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues;

<sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven,  
and God has remembered her iniquities.

### The Bride of Christ

Revelation 19:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure” —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,

for the first heaven and the first earth had

passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I

saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down

out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride

adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud

voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the

dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell

with them, and they will be his people, and God

himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will

wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death

shall be no more, neither shall there be

mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the  
former things have passed away.”

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the

one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one

who is thirsty come; let the one who desires

take the water of life without price.

# The Person and Work of Christ in Two Women

## Deborah: A Woman of Wisdom

- Faithful to speak God's Word
- The people followed and trusted her
- The best leader in the book of Judges

"And because of him you are in **Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God**, righteousness and sanctification and redemption..." 1 Corinthians 1:30

"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom** and of revelation in the knowledge of him..." Ephesians 1:17

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5

## Jael: The Lord uses the weak and foolish to crush the enemy

Genesis 3: The serpent being crafty/shrewd, deceiving the woman

Judges 4: Jael being crafty/shrewd, deceiving the enemy

Genesis 3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

### God uses what seems weak and foolish

"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

"he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him." Isaiah 53:2

### To crush the head of the enemy

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil..."

Hebrews 2:14

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."  
Colossians 2:15

## Discussion Questions

1. What roles has the Lord placed you in? What giftings has He given you? How are you using those faithfully for His glory?
2. How can we be women who seek to praise the leaders and the people of the Body of Christ?
3. How can we be women who seek to praise the Lord and give Him glory like Deborah in Judges 5?
4. How have you seen the Lord use what seems weak or foolish for His glory?
5. How do the portraits of the two women in Proverbs and Revelation impact how you see Scripture? The world? The Church? The work of redemption?