

## WAR MOTHERS

This Mother's Day bible lesson is directed towards all those women who have loved ones at war.

Judges 5 is an interesting chapter because it shows both sides of warfare from a mother's perspective (Judges 5:7, 28).

Judges 4 and 5 tells of Israel under the oppression and finally at war with Canaanites. This war was unique in that it occurred during the rule of the only female Judge of Israel.

Three women dominant the biblical history of this war – Deborah, the female Judge of Israel and Jael, the Israelite heroine and the mother of General Sisera of Canaanite Army.

The Israelites had been oppressed for 20 years by the Canaanites because of divine discipline for apostasy until God appeared to a Jewish prophetess named Deborah (4:1-7).

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of War Mothers.</b>
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**1. Deborah was the fourth judge of Israel during a time of great spiritual apostasy. The Israelites were under divine discipline by the oppression of the Canaanites (4:1-7).**

Two decades of spiritual weak men in Israel has caused a void in strong spiritual male leadership.

This spiritual weakness of males is reflected in Barak (4:8-9). Barak was the best Israel at the offer at the time.

From the world standpoint, General Sisera as an unbeliever was much more a man than Barak.

BE CAREFUL LADIES! As a believer, it is better to be with a weak male believer than a strong male unbeliever (2 Cor.6:14-16).

**2. Israel was out-numbered by Canaanite soldiers and military equipment. Yet God true to His word won a decisive victory over the Canaanites (4:7, 23; 5:1-3).**

Only two tribes responded to the call to war. Later as the war turned towards an Israelite victory, four more tribes joined the fight (5:14-18).

“The superior equipment of the Canaanites is shown in their deployment of 900 chariots of iron which would give them complete control of the valleys and plains, unless some unusual occurrence should immobilize this powerful striking force. Such an event, viewed as a miracle of divine intervention, was to transfer the advantage to the Israelites in the decisive encounter.” (Judges by Arthur Cundall, pg.82)

God sent rain and flooded rivers to stop the movement of the 900 chariots of iron (5:4-5, 19-23). It is also interesting that the Canaanites worshipped Baal as a storm god (1 Kings 18:24; Psa.18:13-15).

**3. Deborah wrote what is considered by most bible scholars to be the first poetic spiritual song of Hebrew literature (Judge 5:1-3).**

We are reminded once again that God has a protective hedge around His children in the angelic conflict (Job 1:10; Isa.5: 5).

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:28-30)

**4. In this spiritual song, Deborah paid tribute to mothers on both sides of the war.**

First, Deborah paid tribute to Israel mothers whose sons fought against the Canaanites (5:7-12).

Next, she paid tribute to Jael, “the most blessed of women.” (5:24-27).

Finally, Deborah paid tribute to the mother of General Sisera of the Canaanite army (5:28-31).

**5. Deborah captured the state of a mother’s heart whose son was at war. She captured in a mother’s heart of the enemy (5:28-31).**

We will study the passage by the following four homiletical points.

- Waiting (28) Return
- Wisdom (29) Reunion
- Wishful (30) Rewards
- Warning (31) Repent or perish (Luke 13:1-5)

Delay in returning home caused anxiety in heart of this war mother. She tried to keep a positive attitude but it was difficult.

*When Jesus was on the cross and near the end of suffering for the sins of the entire world, He spoke these words to a war mother’s heart – “Woman, behold, your son!” (John 19:26)*

**THE NOBLE WIFE and MOTHER – “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” (Proverbs 31:28-29)**