



DEBORAH FIGHT LIKE A GIRL

Judges 4-5

Context



Joshua

Joshua and the Israelites fight the Battle of Jericho to begin the conquest of the Promised Land. The conquest is linear, unstoppable and total.

Context

Judges

Israel is a poorly armed resistance force that wins some battles and loses others. They have periods of relative success and some significant setbacks. They never completely gain control of the Promised Land.



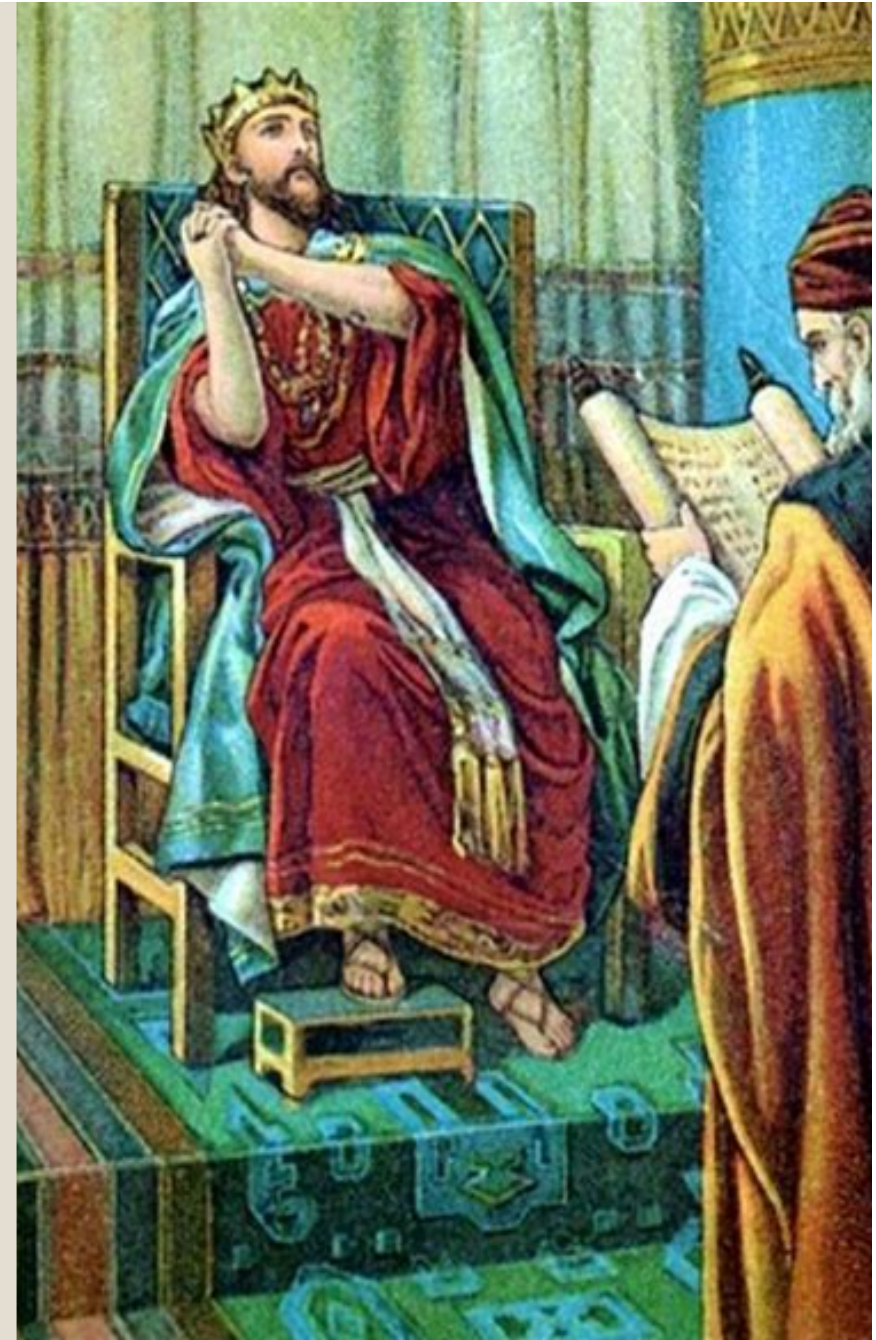


Actual History

- Conquest Model
- Infiltration Model
- Liberation Model
- Pioneer Model

The Book of Judges

A host of traditions, both oral and written, about the Judges was collected during the time of the reforming 7th century BCE Judean king Josiah. These became part of the Deuteronomistic History.



Deborah



- 4th Judge in the Book of Judges.
- Wife of Lappidoth
- May also be translated “woman of fire” or “woman of lightening flashes”

Deborah

- Chapter 4 – prose version of the story
- Chapter 5 – Deborah's victory song
- The victory song is one of the oldest Israelite literary compositions in the Bible
- It dates to the 12th century BCE, contemporaneous with the era it depicts.
- It contains details not found in the prose version.
- It recalls the victory song of Moses and Miriam in the Exodus story.

Palm of Deborah

Deborah is a prophetess

She judged the Tribe of Ephraim
around 1125 BCE

Her courthouse was a palm tree
called “the Palm of Deborah”





Deborah acted as an Oracle

- She had special wisdom from God
- She gave advice
- She was similar to the Oracle at the Greek shrine at Delphi



What the Fight Was About

The Israelites lived in the highlands and the Canaanites lived on the rich farming land in the Plain of Esdraelon and Jezreel

Deborah sends for Barak





Barak wants
Deborah to
attend the battle

It is not unusual to have
a holy person present in
a military setting.

Yahweh wins the battle

The Song of Deborah and Barak tells us that Yahweh sent a tremendous downpour that turned the battleground into deep mud, trapping the Canaanites chariots like the war horses in this World War I photo.



Jael kills Sisera

The Canaanite general Sisera flees the battle and makes his way to the tent of Jael, a woman whose husband was at peace with Jabin, the Canaanite king. Jael lures Sisera into her tent, gives him milk, and when he falls asleep, kills him with a tent peg.





Sisera's Mother





BIANCA JUAREZ OLTHOFF

In the video, Bianca Juárez Olthoff speaks about the message she hears in the story of Deborah.

Questions

- Has God ever called you to do something you did not see coming?
- What excuses might you give for not answering the call?
- What are some practical ways to let go of things in the past so you can follow God's call for your future?
- Think of any insurmountable obstacles you may be facing. What will it take for God to overcome them?



THANK YOU