

## **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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### **ARISE, DEBORAH, ARISE! DEBORAH: A MOTHER IN ISRAEL**

Mother's Day – May 14, 2023

Dr. Ché Ahn

**PURPOSE STATEMENT: TO AWAKEN AND ACTIVATE WOMEN OF GOD TO BE LEADERS IN GOD'S KINGDOM.**

**TEXTS: Judges 5:7 “The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.”**

**Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, a *prophetess*, the wife of Lappidoth, was *judging* Israel at that time. 5 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. 6 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. 7 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?’” 8 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” 9 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. 10 And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.**

**Judges 4:11 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.**

**Judges 4:12 When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. 14 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. 15 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. 16 And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

**Judges 4:17** 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. **18** And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid.” So, he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. **19** And he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So, she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. **20** And he said to her, “Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, ‘Is anyone here?’ say, ‘No.’” **21** But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So, he died. **22** And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, “Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.” So, he went into her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

**Judges 4:23** So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. **24** 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.

**INTRO:** Today on Mother’s Day, we honor all the mothers and grandmothers in our midst. I had a terrific mother. I am wearing this tie to honor my mother, and I know that she is looking down from heaven as part of the “great cloud of witnesses.”

Sue has been the best mother I’ve known anywhere, including my own mother. This is not hyperbole. I may be biased, but I am sharing this from a heart of sincerity. What she has done to demonstrate the love of Jesus towards our children has been truly Christlike.

But I want to take a different slant on this Mother’s Day message. I want to talk about being a spiritual mother. I want to awaken the leadership call that is among women in the Body of Christ. Deborah was one who the Bible says was a mother in Israel. She was a woman leader that God raised up to inspire women and mothers in God’s church to come forth.



### Intro to Judges:

This book was written around 1,200 B.C. Some say it was written by Samuel the prophet. It was the time around 200 years before the establishment of a monarchy in Israel. Four times it says, “In those days, there was no king in Israel,” implying that there were kings when the book of Judges was written but no kings during that 200-year period.

Some of the well-known judges that we learn about in Sunday school would be Gideon and Samson. These were not perfect judges, but they were the leaders that God raised up to deliver Israel from the hands of their enemies.

A judge was not like a judge today, to preside over disputes and legal disagreements that we have. The Hebrew word means a *civil leader*. And in the book of Judges, the judge was a deliverer.

But I want to talk about a woman judge, who in my opinion was not only the most impressive judge during the period of Judges, but one of the great women leaders of biblical proportion. Deborah was one of the great heroines of the Bible.

## I. DEBORAH WAS A PROPHETESS

A. **Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, a *prophetess*, the wife of Lappidoth, was *judging* Israel at that time.**

B. Wife of Lappidoth: We don’t know much about him. He was not the judge, but his wife Deborah was.

1. She prophesies to Barak in **Judges 4:6: 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. 7 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?’” 8 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go, but if you do not go with me, I will not go.”**

2. Then she gives a specific word that another woman will receive the glory in battle. **Judges 4:9 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.**

## C. Women Prophetesses

1. We have a number of women who were called prophetess in the Old Testament. Some of the more well-known are:

2. Exodus 15:20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing.
3. Luke 2:36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage.
4. But Deborah was the most prominent in the Old Testament because she was a prophet/judge. She was raised up to be a judge because of her charismatic prophetic gift. This implies that the Holy Spirit was resting upon her. The same spirit that was upon Moses, Miriam, and even Father Abraham, was upon her.
5. My understanding of Old Testament prophets is that the Spirit of God would come upon them, and they would hear from God and speak His word.

#### D. NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETESSES

1. Acts 2:17 “‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; <sup>18</sup> EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT, And they shall prophesy.”
2. Philip the Evangelist's daughters: Acts 21:9 Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses.

## II. DEBORAH WAS A JUDGE

### A. Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, a *prophetess*, the wife of Lappidoth, was *judging* Israel at that time.

1. A judge was the leader at that time. There were no kings until the prophet Samuel anointed Saul to be king. After the death of Joshua, the leaders of Israel were called judges, thus the Book of Judges.
2. A judge was a civic leader, but in the book of Judges, he—or in this case, Deborah—was a deliverer.
3. Twelve judges are named in the book of Judges, and 12 is the number representing Kingdom government. E.g. 12 tribes of Israel and 12 apostles.
4. The pattern in Israel's history is that: 1) The people would rebel against God and sin. 2) True to the covenant in Deuteronomy, God would allow the enemies of Israel to invade and oppress the people of Israel. 3) Israel would repent. 4) God would raise up a judge to deliver Israel from her oppressors.

- 5) The land would experience rest or peace. But it is clear that Deborah was the Leader of Israel.
5. I want to submit to you that she was a type of an apostle/prophet of her time.
  6. Today she would be like Cindy Jacobs and Patricia King, a prophet/apostle, or a prophetic apostle. Becca Greenwood would also be like them.
  7. Mama Sue would be a pastor/prophet. She is the co-founding pastor of HRC.

## **B. WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**

1. **Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and *subdue* it; and *rule* over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
2. God asked both man and woman to rule.

## **C. WOMEN APOSTLES**

1. **1 Corinthians 12:28** First apostles, second prophets, third teachers...
2. **Ephesians 4:11** — Did God give the ascension gifts only to men? All the spiritual gifts He gave to the Body of Christ, and half are women.
3. **Romans 16:7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsfolk and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
4. Acts 18: Priscilla teaches Apollos. Note that Priscilla is mentioned first.
5. **Acts 18:24** Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; **26** and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when *Priscilla* and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
6. I believe Priscilla and Aquila were marketplace apostles.
7. Apostles are spiritual fathers and mothers.
8. **1 Corinthians 4:15** For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
9. **1 Thessalonians 2:5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — **6** nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as *apostles* of Christ we might have asserted our authority. **7** But we proved to be

gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. **8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

10. If you have problems with women in leadership, you are going to have problems with HIM because we have commissioned women apostles like Patricia King, Leanna Cinquanta, and Leanne Goff, just to mention a few.

### III. DEBORAH WAS A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

#### A. Judges 5:7 “The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.”

1. I believe that Deborah was a mother in the natural with natural children. Deborah was married and she had children; most married women did in that period. Not having children would have been a sign of the curse that Deuteronomy 28 talks about, and she would not have become a judge unless the people recognized that God’s favor was upon her. She was venerated and not scorned for being barren.
2. I think she was recognized as a spiritual mother to the nation of Israel. That is why she describes herself as “**a mother in Israel.**”
3. It was around 10 years ago that people started to call me “Papa Ché” around the world. Initially, I didn’t like it because it made me feel old, but reality hit me that I was not only a father, but I was a grandfather, and people were recognizing me as a spiritual father to them.
4. I believe that God is raising up spiritual mothers and fathers for the billion-soul harvest.
5. I believe that we are in a Malachi 4:5-6 season. God gave us the mandate to turn the hearts of spiritual fathers and mothers toward their spiritual children, and spiritual children to their parents.
6. I am asking every man and woman to volunteer freely in day of His power, and to roll up your sleeves and be a spiritual parent to someone in the Body of Christ.
7. Why not become a Life Group Leader? We must get ready for the great harvest.

### IV. DEBORAH WAS GODLY

#### A. Judges 5:2 “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!”

1. She loved the Lord. God gave her victory because she loved the Lord.





2. She worshiped God when God delivered her enemies; she is giving praise and glory to God.
3. She was godly in the period of apostasy and ungodliness. Judges is also called “The Book of Failures.” The tone of the book is one of defeat and oppression with periods of judges delivering the people from their enemies.
4. In the midst of the darkness, God raised up a woman leader who brought “revival and reformation” (so to speak) to the nation of Israel!

## V. HER LEADERSHIP ANOINTING EMPOWERED ANOTHER WOMAN TO COME FORTH IN HER DESTINY

**A. Judges 4:17 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. 18 And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid.” So, he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. 19 And he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So, she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. 20 And he said to her, “Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, ‘Is anyone here?’ say, ‘No.’” 21 But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So, he died. 22 And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, “Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.” So, he went into her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.**

1. Deborah’s courage and her leadership inspired Jael to assassinate an evil man when she had the opportunity to do so.
2. Killing a man with a peg is not “women stuff.” Most women don’t like violence. The mass killers, including serial killers, are for the most part not women.
3. Women in leadership will inspire other women to come forward. Pastor Sue was inspired by Mother Theresa, along with millions of other women around the world.
4. Look at how Heidi Baker and Cindy Jacobs have inspired other women to come forth into leadership.

## VI. THE THREE CALLS OF THE DEBORAH ANOINTING



**A. AWAKE, DEBORAHS, AWAKE**

1. **Judges 5:12** “Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, break out in a song!”
2. Just like the church in Sardis in Revelation 3.
3. **Revelation 3:1** “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 *Wake up*, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.’”
4. The Church today is very much like the church in Sardis. We are spiritually dead, and we are spiritually asleep.
5. God is saying to the Deborahs in this church, “Wake up and fulfill your destiny.”
6. Share the story of the Iranian sister who was a believer in Jesus for just three years.

**B. SING, DEBORAHS, SING**

1. **Judges 5:12** “Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, break out in a song!”
2. Your greatest weapon is worship and praise.
3. We talked about spiritual warfare last week. Paul exhorts us to pray with all kinds of prayers in Ephesians 6:18. One of the most powerful spiritual weapons is praise and worship.
4. **Psalm 149:5** **Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishment on the peoples, 8 To bind their kings with chains And their nobles with fetters of iron, 9 To execute on them the judgment written. This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!**
5. It is interesting that when Governor Newsom allowed us to meet for one month at the end of May 2020, he said, “No singing.” Out of that, Let Us Worship with Sean Feucht was born.
6. Worship is one of our greatest weapons in spiritual warfare.

**C. ARISE, DEBORAHS, ARISE**

1. **Judges 5:7** “The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.”
2. She arose by acting and going out to battle. She was a warrior.
3. The operative word here is action. We have to proactively attack the enemy.



4. Remember I said that there is no such thing as a conscientious objector in the Body of Christ? This doesn't just apply to men but also to women in the Church. God has called all of us to war.
5. Pastor Sue saw a vision in prayer that women would lead the charge against the gates of hell, screaming out, "Charge!"
6. We see how Deborah volunteers to be the bait to draw General Sisera out.

**CONCLUSION:** Story of David Yonggi Cho, who was dying of tuberculosis, and a Christian woman came and prayed for him to get healed. Years later, he was pastoring a 3,000-member church and was so exhausted and burned out. The Lord gave him a vision of cell ministry, and he asked his men leaders to help him pastor the church through cell groups, or small groups. The men gave excuses that they were too busy with work, so they couldn't also pastor the church. The Lord told him to ask the women. The women said yes. The Deborahs arose and took action. Through the small group system led by the women, Full Gospel Central church became the largest church in the world with 750,000 members.