

## A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

Judges 5:7

### INTRODUCTION:

**P of S: B+R+C+B+RE.** (CHART) Ordinarily, those voices that speak to us from the past are MEN. BUT, even though it was God's plan for man to have the RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP, the men didn't always prove true nor adequate to that trust that was laid on them! SO, at such a time as that, this woman was thrust by God into the breach that needed to be filled, and she proved an able servant of Jehovah! **TEXT: Judg 5:7**  
*"The peasantry ceased, they ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Until I arose, A MOTHER IN ISRAEL."*

Israel was at a low ebb at the time of the text: *POLITICALLY, MORALLY, SPIRITUALLY!* The people were groping in darkness, *mainly because they had no leadership!* **Judg.17:6-***"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."* But as has always been true in the history of God's people, there always remains a few [A REMNANT] who are courageous and willing to jeopardize their lives for the truth. Deborah says in **vs.13-** *"Then He made 'him that remaineth' (this is how she spoke of the remnant, of which she was a part) have dominion over the nobles among the people: th Lord made me have dominion over the mighty!"*

**IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS WOMAN -- THIS "MOTHER IN ISRAEL" --** that the life of the nation was cleansed and brought back to God and their "broken-down" condition was repaired, and **THEN** they were able to know deliverance! As was true with most of Israel's apostacies, **idolatry was the cause of the foreign invasion as well as their internal inability to resist it!** *Let's begin our study on this Mother's Day by impressing you that---*

### I. DEBORAH WAS A LEADER IN HER OWN HOME!

A. She arose a MOTHER in Israel!

1. God didn't select her because she was a "stateswoman" or an "educator" or a "religious dignitary", even though these might all be said of her!
  - a) **As a judge**, she heard & decided cases brought to her by the people of Israel. She held court at "the palm tree of Deborah", in the southern part of Ephraim, between Ramah & Bethel. **(4:4-5)**
  - b) **As a prophet**, she summoned Barak and delivered an order giving him God's instructions for a battle in the Jezreel Valley against the Canaanite army being led by Sisera. Barak obeyed & Israel won the battle. Some scholars believe she also composed the song of victory she and Barak sang in **Judges 5**, of which our text is a part!
2. It seems evident that she took pride in one of humanity's most noble vocations: **MOTHERHOOD!**
  - a) Some, however, have suggested that the text is *figuratively picturing* her as **MATERNALLY** guiding and caring for and leading Israel to victory (so the reference is not to her as a "mother").
  - b) I believe what she's doing is **showing the omnipotence of God** by pointing out that, *with His leadership and strength*, that even one whose tones are anticipated as gentle and whose actions are considered to be peaceful -- viz, **a MOTHER** -- could lead the people of God to victory!

B. Now I realize that many people in our society tend to wax very sentimental on Mother's Day!

1. There's certainly not anything **WRONG** with being sentimental about your mother, today, **BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE LIMITED TO TODAY!** We should feel this way every day we live!
2. And this urging is to both "mothers" and "children". Children are to "honor" their mothers, but at the same time, mothers are to be "honorable"!

C. The only way any of us can be "honorable" in the sight of God is to exercise our strength in obeying HIS commands -- especially as to how we are to treat one another! **Titus 2:3-5-***"Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,"* **Eph.6:1-3-***"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."*

1. Abraham Lincoln said: “*All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother!*”
2. In nearly every case, the most influential member of the home is the MOTHER!
  - a) Now we all realize that our influence can be either GOOD or BAD! Whether as a parent or a Christian, we’re urged to **SHOW** our **GOOD nature!** Matt.5:16.
  - b) No mother who loves her home and her family would trade places with anyone!
  - c) That calling is so high and so Sacred, we can really have no higher aspirations for our earthly interpersonal relationships! Even though careers are fulfilling and satisfying, they’re really just mundane when compared with the noble calling of motherhood!
  - d) And **one of the main reasons** is that Mothers are handling some of the Lord’s most precious jewels: **LITTLE CHILDREN!** cf. Matt.18:3; 19:14.
  - e) **HOW TRUE** is that proverb we read in Ezek.16:44-“Behold, everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb concerning you, saying, *‘Like mother, like daughter’.*”
3. Since NOTHING can replace a mother’s influence this needs to be a major focus in contemplating how our children will turn out!
  - a) cf. Jochebed/Moses; Hannah/Samuel; Mary/Jesus; Lois & Eunice/Timothy
  - b) At an afternoon tea, a woman who was given to public enterprises and who frowned on homemakers, asked a mother: “*And what literary work are YOU interested in?*” To which the mother smugly replied: “*I’m currently writing three books! I’m writing them in hearts in order to make better men & women & help them to meet and solve life’s problems!*” **WHAT A TREMENDOUS ANSWER!** *Mothers don’t have to take a back seat to anyone!*
4. The tremendous responsibility of motherhood should certainly **not be taken lightly!**
  - a) They’re to teach the younger, esp. women. And we find some of those things in Tit.2:4-5- “*that they may encourage the young women to LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS, to LOVE THEIR CHILDREN, 5 to BE SENSIBLE, PURE, WORKERS AT HOME, KIND, BEING SUBJECT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS, (and this is all for a distinct purpose) THAT THE WORD OF GOD MAY NOT BE DISHONORED.*”
  - b) Homemaking, how to raise a family, cleanliness, a love for GOD, His word, His people! Is that what YOU, as a mother, are teaching the younger? AND, is that what YOU, who are younger, are putting forth efforts to LEARN?

## **II. DEBORAH POSSESSED A FLAMING, MILITANT CONSCIENCE!**

- A. When Deborah’s conscience was aroused there were revolutionary changes that took place in that corrupt society!
  1. We’re not intending to minimize the influence and effect a woman has in the home!
  2. But both the BIBLE and HUMAN EXPERIENCE show us that her influence is not limited to that sphere -- **and it shouldn’t be!** But **whatever** a woman [or any of us] does and **wherever** we **DO IT** -- we always need to do our best to **glorify the Lord!**
- B. ALSO, I don’t intend to minimize the influence and effect that MEN have, both at home and in our society! They’re to be the spiritual leaders in the home, not just **telling** but **showing** how to **get into** and **stay in** A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!
  1. But even the **rights and responsibilities** of leadership don’t keep many men from just **WRINGING THEIR HANDS** in **despair** and **futility!**
  2. And the **urgency and importance** of their leadership doesn’t keep many of them from manifesting an **INDIFFERENCE TO ENTRENCHED EVIL** that’s threatening to **eliminate** us all!
  3. At such times, many women have had to take a stand with confident planning and courageous activities! Among such **notables** we’d find **Florence Nightingale** [for her nursing]; **Frances E. Willard** [for her work re. Woman’s Temperance & Suffrage]; and **Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe** [author and philanthropist -- wrote “*Uncle Tom’s Cabin*”].

4. And even today we can see great strides for good that have been taken because MOTHERS have taken interest in our schools, and in our civic and social activities, as well as many other things that concern our family life!
- C. So *there is no apology offered because NONE IS NEEDED* for Deborah being a JUDGE and a LEADER among the people of God, some 1200 years before the coming of Christ!
  1. The teaching and judging she did was all with Jehovah's authority and approval!
  2. It's notable that she tried to get Barak to take the lead! After he refused she never went beyond womanly modesty, but *she got the job done for the Lord and His people!*

### III. THE UNITED EFFORTS OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE USUALLY WHAT'S MOST PRODUCTIVE OF GOOD FOR THE CAUSE OF GOD!

- A. The efforts of Deborah AND Barak brought victory and deliverance to Israel!
  1. Encouragement of such united efforts are both implied and openly stated in the N.T.
  2. **Speaking of Priscilla and Aquilla in Rom.16:5-*"Salute the church that is in THEIR house."* And we read of this same teaching team in Acts 18:24-26-*"Now a certain 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."***
- B. ALSO, it's necessary that Parents and Children in the home need working relationships to be most productive for the Lord!
  1. Each is to be fulfilling the duties of responsibility; respecting the rights of others; being true to themselves/ the family/ and esp. the Lord!
  2. It's especially true that if we want the best chances of success and happiness in the home it requires faithfulness to God in/ through His Son Jesus Christ --- and that's exercised in His Body, the church!
  3. IN ADDITION TO the serious hardships it brings on the other members of the family when any one in it doesn't fulfill his obligations [**whether it's the father/husband or the wife/mother or the children**], it is ALSO DETRIMENTAL to our SPIRITUAL-WELL-BEING!
- C. Home is a unit of our society --- and you can have no better society than the homes that make it up!
  1. If you want our society to improve --- then improve your home!
  2. As in every other field, any improvement must begin with the LEADERS of the unit, in this case, the parents! Prov.22:6; Eph.6:1-4-*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

### CONCLUSION:

Few pictures are more beautiful than the one painted in Proverbs 31. Note especially vss.28-31-*"Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: 29 "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her the product of her hands, And let her works praise her in the gates."*

**ARE YOU THE TYPE WIFE/MOTHER with whom God is well pleased? Husband/father? Offspring?** Our FIRST obligation is to the Lord, and this includes righteousness on our part in the family relationship. If we **REBEL** in our family responsibilities, or even **NEGLECT** them, it could cost us our soul for eternity! ARE YOU REALLY THE KIND OF PERSON YOU BELIEVE THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BE?