

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

26 February 2022

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



“I am a federal judge, which means people generally treat me with respect. But in the evenings, when I leave the courthouse and go home, all of my wisdom and knowledge and authority evaporates. My daughters make it very clear that as far as they're concerned, I know nothing.” The Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson, First African American Woman nominee to the US Supreme Court

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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Deborah

Pages 40-42

AWARENESS

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⁴ Deborah, the wife of Lapidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time. ⁵ She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment. Judges 4:4-5 (NLT)

Name Meaning

- “A Bee”, the busy bee. She was a patriot gathering honey for her friends and like a bee she had a fatal sting for her enemies as the Canaanites came to experience.
- Deborah stands out among the wisest of all Old Testament women.

Family Connection

- Although referred to as a “mother of Israel” there is no record of her being a mother of natural children.
- Her exploits left the impact of her personality upon events and secures for herself an imperishable honor.
- It was Deborah whom God raised up and endowed with a remarkable personality and varied gifts for the deliverance of His distressed and defeated people.

She Was A Wife

- Some writers affirm that being born to rule, Deborah was master in her own home and Lapidoth was the husband of a prominent woman.
- Other writers believe that Lapidoth admired the ability and influence of his wife.
- Deborah would never have become the dazzling figure she did had she not had the love, sympathy, advice and encouragement of a husband who was happy to ride in the second chariot.

She Was A Prophetess

- She is distinguished as being endowed with the prophetic gift, which means the ability to discern the mind and purpose of God and declare it to others.
- She had the gift to perceive and proclaim divine truth.
- Such an office, whether held by a male or female, was a high one and corresponds to the ministry of the Word today.
- Had Pontius Pilate taken the advice of his wife he would not have signed the death warrant of Jesus Christ.

She Was An Agitator

- What does agitation mean?
- Deborah was an effective agitator who stirred up Israel's concern about its low spiritual condition.

St. Matthew AME Church 336 Oakwood Avenue Orange, NJ 07050

Reverend Leslie Watson Wilson, First Lady | Minister to Women

202-256-8531 Cell Lesliemariwilson316@gmail.com

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- The people were dejected and afraid, for their spirit had been broken and all hope of deliverance from God had vanished.
- Deborah did more than prophesy, she aroused the nation from its despair.
- Hers was a fearless and unsolicited devotion to the emancipation of God's people and she awoke in them a determination to free themselves from their wretched bondage and degradation.
- Day after day she excited those who heard her words of divine wisdom.

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She Was A Ruler

- Deborah was the 5th of the leaders or "Judges" of Israel raised up by God to deliver His people from the bondage their idolatry had caused.
- As the position of woman in those days was of a distinctly subordinate character, Deborah's prominence as a ruler is somewhat remarkable.
- She ruled with equity a land that had rest from war and captivity for 40 years.

She Was A Warrior

- Having fought with words she went forth to throw off the oppressor's yoke with words.
- Deborah sent for Barak and told him it was God's will that he should lead his forces and deliver the country.
- Barak ultimately decided to go as long as Deborah was with him who said he would not have the victory, but a woman would.
- A hailstorm came, the Canaanites were blinded and ultimately overwhelmed by the river. Sisera the ruler escaped but was killed by Jael while asleep in her tent.
- Deborah gained undying fame as the female warrior who rescued her people from their cruel foe.

She Was A Poetess

- Judges 5 is a song written after her victory over the Canaanites.
- Out of the contest and conquest came the moral purification of the nation and the inspiring genius of it was a woman daring and dynamic in the leadership of her nation.

She Was A Maternal Figure

- She never experienced motherhood but became the mother of all in Israel and the source of spiritual motherhood.
- Hers was a brilliant career of a heart fixed on God and she is immortal because she served God to the limit of her ability and capacity.

March 26, 2022 – Queen Vashti – Pages 165-167

Book of Ester 1; 2:1; 4:17

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SKILL

Step Seventeen: Leading

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The best of the judges is Deborah. The people recognized her wisdom and came to her for counsel and conflict resolution (**Judges 4:5**). Agree Disagree Not Sure

The military hierarchy recognizes her as supreme commander and in fact will only go to war on her personal command (**Judg. 4:9**). Agree Disagree Not Sure

Her governance is so good that “the land had rest for forty years” (**Judg. 5:31**), a rare occurrence at any point in Israel’s history. Agree Disagree Not Sure

Some today may find it surprising that a woman, not the widow or daughter of a male ruler, could arise as the national chief of a pre-modern nation. Agree Disagree Not Sure

But the book of Judges regards her as the greatest of Israel's leaders during this period. Alone among the judges, she is called a prophet or prophetess (**Judg. 4:4**), indicating how closely she resembles Moses and Joshua, to whom God also spoke directly. Agree Disagree Not Sure

Neither women, including the undercover agent Jael, nor men, including the commanding general Barak, exhibit any concern about having a female leader. Deborah’s service as a prophetess-judge of Israel suggests that God does not regard women’s political, judicial, or military leadership as problematic. Agree Disagree Not Sure

It is also evident that her husband Lapidoth and her immediate family had no trouble structuring the work of the household so that she had time to “sit under the palm of Deborah” to fulfill her duties when “the Israelites came up to her for judgment” (**Judg. 4:5**). Agree Disagree Not Sure

Could reflecting on Deborah’s leadership of ancient Israel help Christians today clarify our understanding of God’s intent in these situations? Could we serve our organizations and societies by helping demolish improper obstacles to women’s leadership? Would we personally benefit from seeking women as bosses, mentors, and role models in our work?

Source: <https://www.theologyofwork.org/old-testament/joshua-judges-and-work/chaos-judges-1-21/the-judges-judges-3-16/deborah-judges-4-5>

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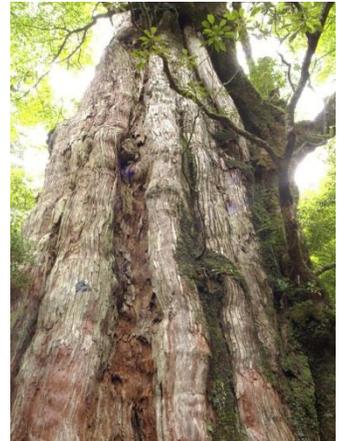
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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how God can use me in leadership as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

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