

## Deborah – Leadership in the Promised Land

In the Book of Judges we meet Deborah, who became a leader of the Israelites, responsible for keeping the Promised Land free of foreign domination. She was also a prophet who conveyed to the people what God wanted them to do. Under her leadership she held court so that the Israelites could come to her to settle their disputes. In the fifth chapter of Judges we find The Song of Deborah, a song of thanksgiving written in poetic form, after Deborah and Barak, her general, led the Israelite army against the Canaanites whom they defeated. Most scholars credit Deborah with this writing and acclaim it as one of the most brilliant examples of Hebrew poetry. This battle was hard fought against the forces of Canaan, which included nine hundred iron chariots. The foot soldiers from Israelite tribes could not have defeat them without the help of God. The Lord sent rain and hail and the River Kishon swept the Canaanite army away. These details are recorded in Deborah's Song. Deborah also let us know in Judges 5:7 that she was a mother before she entered her leadership position. Deborah was a strong and gifted woman whom God chose to lead his people during their early years in the Promised Land.