

Deborah's Life & Character

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The significance of the name *Deborah's Palm Tree Ministry* is one that I believe symbolizes and represents who Deborah was and how she lived out her life as well as her destiny. I believe names are so important because they characterize who we are and how we can walk out our fulfillment. I also felt led from the Lord to give the Prophetic Counseling/Coaching this name because *I* was “prophetically” proclaiming and asserting His fulfillment over this ministry. By reading and studying Deborah’s life and character, I find myself personally aspiring more and more to her life and her love for the Lord.

Meaning of Deborah's Name & Ministry:

Deborah means “bee” which I find quite interesting being that she was “busy as a bee,” being a wife, a judge, a prophetess, and a leader. She seemed quite focused on her appointed tasks and did not waiver in what she had and needed to do. As you and I both know, bees have a very specific and strategic job. Their blueprint is one that results in a great harvest with the intention of being delightfully fruitful along with producing a sweet tasting commodity—honey.

Deborah, also, had a great fruitful harvest, and she walked in being a great woman of influence without compromise or concession. I’m sure there were many times when being a leader and judge that she had to rise to the occasion to show strength and vigor with people. She may have not always been “politically correct” in her day because of some hard verdicts and/or judgments she had to execute. At times, people might have felt “stung” with the truth. Due to her relationship with her Lord, she had the spiritual mantle, which created an atmosphere of courage and love. We see clearly how God favored her and her ministry as well as the fruit of her labor by responded to God’s call and initiated battle that obtained justice for the Israelites, which lasted forty years – ***And the land was undisturbed for forty years. (Judges 5:31)***

Holding court under the Palm Tree also has special meaning in scripture. The Palm Tree represents peace, plenty, fruitfulness, grace, elegance, and majesty—a place of safety, protection, shelter, victory, and beauty. As I looked into scripture, I found several significant and profound meanings of the “palm trees or palm branches.” Here are just a few:

Jeremiah 10:5 – They are ***upright*** as the palm tree.

Psalms 92:12 – The righteous ***shall flourish*** like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Psalms 92:14 – They shall ***still bring-forth fruit*** in old age. They shall be fat and flourishing. (*Palm tree is implied in this scripture.*)

Revelation 7:9 – Where the *glorified* of all nations are described as “clothed with white robes and palms in their hands.

I hope you caught some of the symbols and images of why the name—*Deborah’s Palm Tree Ministry*. I encourage each one to dive into scripture and find a treasure chest of gems about Deborah, about the palm tree, and how she was first the daughter of her Jehovah God, *and* then out of that she launches into her destiny. She dwelt under the palm tree where the people came to her and she did not go to the people.

The Story of Deborah in the Book of Judges:

Judges Chapters 4 and 5 tell the story of Deborah, one that is so powerful and unique particularly given the time and era of history for women. We see through her story that she had gained great prominence, distinction, and importance on her own merits of character. Her love for and faithfulness in her Lord was one that brought her into her destiny of greatness, not on the merits of any other one person including her husband. God is no respecter of persons for He gives equal and unconditional love to all as He searches out the matter of the heart, male or female.

We see in the introduction of *Judges (4:4) And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.* Again, let me point out that the first reference of introduction to Deborah was that of a prophetess—one instructed in Divine knowledge by the inspiration of the Spirit of God. That speaks first of the intimacy and closeness of her relationship with her God that then gives way to her own identity and personality, which then accessed her security and confidence. I *love that* because the Father looks to the heart of His child for relationship and connection.

The role of judges and rulers in the Old Testament was that of a leader of the Hebrew people, in lieu of a king, as they did not yet have kings. Deborah was the only woman to be a Judge; to have the role as a ruler and judge meant to be responsible for the welfare and protection of the people. Without question, she was a woman of influence and which I’m sure opened the way for other women to flourish into their own call and destiny. She was chosen by God to be a Judge, to rescue the people from their enemies, and to establish justice. At that time, Judges made very clear that the hallmark of everything depended upon faithful obedience to the Lord; that was the gateway to govern God’s justice and God’s mercy.

Deborah the Warrior & Military Leader:

After the death of Joshua, something happened to the Israelites. They became weary in driving out the Canaanites, they became tired of besieging city after city, and they were letting their guard down by relaxing and compromising more and more. They turned away from God to pagan practices and reverted back to the old nature as the book of Judges refers to this time when *every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (Judges 17:6, 21:25)*

They lost their zeal to follow hard after God and His ways, and they became influenced by the world around them. They lacked courage, wisdom, and faith in following God's ways. They really lost their sense of decency and morality and were swept up in the chaotic times of sexual perversity and idolatry. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

God's purpose and design for the Israelites was to live in the Promised Land and become a shining example of His goodness and greatness and to be fruitful and blessed. His laws were to be their wisdom so that others would yearn and desire to know and follow their God. But Israel failed.

It speaks so much of who we are with our sin nature and our double-mindedness and how the cycle of sin can repeat itself IF we do not seek Him and His ways and turn from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. It does become a slippery slope of sin, a downward spiral that leads us into compromise, sin, and finally bondage. Sin never takes us by surprise; it's the product of wrongdoing, wrong thinking, and wrong actions.

Henceforth, Deborah walks into history and delivers the Israelites out of their oppression and suffering, out of their rebellion and sin, and out of their domination by the Canaanites. The Israelites came to a point of crying out for God's intervention to help deliver them. We see how God is ever faithful and steadfast in His love and care even when we go astray. He wants none to perish but all to have eternal life in Him.

At that time, Deborah went before God to intercede and receive direction and instruction in how to rescue and save the people of God. God giving her a specific strategy, Deborah's preparations were underway for the rescue mission. She called for Barak, who was an Israelite warrior and told him to take 10,000 troops to confront the enemy and lead them to Mount Tabor. Barak's response to Deborah, ***If you will go with me, I will go; if not I will not go. (Judges 4:8)*** As I thought about Barak's response, it really showed a few sides to him, one being that He knew God's favor and power rested heavily on Deborah and knew victory and triumph would take place because of Deborah's intimate relationship with God.

After Barak stated to Deborah, ***If you will go with me, I will go; if not I will not go. (Judges 4:8)***, in the next verse, Deborah agrees to go into battle with the troops, but through her wise and astute profoundness she tells him, ***However, there will be no glory for you in the course you are asking, for then the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman. (Judges 4:9)*** Wow—she again shows her strength, her boldness, and her confidence in the God she serves in making sure that God gets all the glory. With Barak's help, she organized this army and gave way to attack, which gained a great and significant victory for Israel and God's people. This was a memorable and remarkable day in Israel for there was great joy in the victory over the Canaanites. Due to Deborah's strength, courage, and wisdom, the Israelites lived in forty years of peace.

Judges Chapter 5 is known as the "Song of Deborah" in which Deborah and Barak sing a song of blessings to God for His deliverance and how God brings His leaders through to victory. ***When leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves – Bless***

the Lord! Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel. (Judges 5:2-3)

In final reflection on the life and story of Deborah, I would like to share some of the Proverbs about wisdom because I truly believe the Spirit of the Living God breathes His breath of wisdom and knowledge upon us in order for us to live in the Kingdom here and now, that we could see from His perspective and advance into the place of our own victory. He delights when we ask for inside counsel from Him, when we seek His heart on the matter or hear His voice to receive direction or to obtain His strategies to move forward and onward in our Promise Land.

In conclusion, Deborah's busy and fruitful life as a prophetess, judge, and military leader made her a woman of great influence, one who did not waiver or concede. The significant palm tree covers her as she holds court, ruling in an atmosphere of safety, victory, and grace. Through it all, she walked closely with the Lord, giving Him the glory for the wisdom, victories, and prudent judgments. It is plain to see the significance and influence of the chosen name of my ministry, *Deborah's Palm Tree Ministry*. Come join and sit with me as we seek the Lord's guidance and counsel within the shadow of Deborah's life and the shade of the palm tree.

Father,

You see our hearts, our thoughts, and the places where we long for greater revelation, impartation, and communication from YOU.

We open our hearts to receive the impartation of Your mighty Spirit to lead us into our Promise Land—to lead us to the places of knowing what is best for us, to help us with the choices as well as decisions that are needing Your counsel so we can have victory and triumph over our enemies and ultimately give all glory to You.

In Jesus' Name – Amen.

Verses from the Book of Proverbs:

1:2 – That people may know skillful and godly Wisdom and instruction, discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight,

1:3 – receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice and integrity.

1:5 – The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound counsel (so that he may be able to steer his course rightly).

2:2 – Making your ear attentive to skillful and godly Wisdom and inclining and directing your heart and mind to understanding (applying all your powers to the quest for it);

2:3 – Yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,

2:4 – If you seek (Wisdom) as for silver and search for skillful and godly Wisdom as for hidden treasures.

2:5 – Then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of our (omniscient) God.

2:6 – For the Lord gives skillful and godly Wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2:7 – He hides away sound and godly Wisdom and stores it for the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with Him); He is a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity.

2:8 – That He may guard the paths of justice; yes, He preserves the way of His saints.

2:9 – Then you will understand righteousness, justice, and fair dealing (in every area and relation); yes, you will understand every good path.

2:10 – For skillful and godly Wisdom shall enter into your heart, and knowledge shall be pleasant to you.