

## **Scriptures from Week 3 - Women of the Word: Deborah**

**Judges 21:25** “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”

**Judges 5:7** “Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel.”

**Ephesians 6:10-13** “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

**Isaiah 32:9** “You women who are so complacent, rise up and listen to me; you daughters who feel secure, hear what I have to say!”

**Proverbs 14:1** “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”

**Proverbs 31:25** “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”

**Isaiah 52:1** “Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength.... Shake off your dust; rise up.”

**Proverbs 31:17** “She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.”

**Judges 5:21**” March on, my soul; be strong!”

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** “For through we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

**Isaiah 60:1** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

**I Thessalonians 5:5-8** “You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober ... putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

*"March On, My Soul, with Strength"*

1 March on, my soul, with strength,  
march forward, void of fear;  
he who has led will lead,  
through each succeeding year;  
and as you journey on your way,  
his hand shall hold you day by day.

2 March on, my soul, with strength,  
in ease you dare not dwell;  
your Master calls you forth;  
then up, and serve him well!  
Take up your cross, take up your sword,  
and fight the battles of your Lord!

3 March on, my soul, with strength,  
with strength, but not your own;  
the conquest you shall gain,  
through Christ your Lord alone;  
his grace shall power your feeble arm,  
his love preserve you safe from harm.

4 March on, my soul, with strength,  
from strength to strength march on;  
warfare shall end at length,  
all foes be overthrown.  
And then, my soul, if faithful now,  
the crown of life awaits your brow.

Source: Church Hymnary (4th ed.) #236  
Author: William Wright

### **Week 3 HOMEWORK:**

Keep reading your Bible!

Re-read the story of Deborah in Judges 4 & 5

Did anything new stand out to you?

List the areas of influence and leadership you have

How are you stewarding these? Do any need to go?

Where is your counsel coming from? Who are you allowing to lead you?

Are there any areas of change to make?

Are you in a battle currently? Allow your small group to pray with you!

As you did last week, search for Scriptures that can be used as weapons against the enemy. Write them down. Read them out loud. Keep them handy!

Digging Deeper:

Read about Hannah in I Samuel 1 & 2

## **Mighty Women Who Rise Up**

*by Carrie Kittinger*

Deborah was a spiritual leader as well as a political leader at a time when a woman in leadership was rare. In a man's world, she was a judge who held court under a palm tree – doesn't that sound like a pretty office setting? She also spoke on behalf of the Lord as a prophetess. But the description of Deborah I love the most is as a mother who chose to rise up.

*"Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel." Judges 5:7*

The name Deborah means "honey bee". Don't mess with a mom on a mission and don't stir up a beehive either! Like a mother quickly coming to the aid of her children, Deborah got a bee in her bonnet when the enemy was rising up against God's people. We must embrace our God-given femininity – it's where we will be the strongest.

Not only did Deborah rise up to lead Israel's army in battle, but she led them to victory. The fifth chapter of the book of Judges contains Deborah's victory song. As women, we have the awesome privilege of being life givers. We were fashioned by our Creator to be able to carry and bring forth life. Our words and actions have the ability to build up or to tear down. This applies to our self-talk as well. As Deborah rose up she also had to remind her soul to be strong.

*"March on my soul; be strong!" Judges 5:21*

We, like Deborah, must RISE UP, MARCH ON, and BE STRONG.

- March on when we feel weak inside.
- March on when no one else goes with us.
- March on when faced with a challenge seemingly insurmountable.
- March on when unbelief tries to stand in the way.
- March on when our flesh is weak and temptation to quit is pressing in.
- March on when our enemy looks like a giant.

We all have an area of influence – whether to thousands, hundreds or a few. We must receive our marching orders from the Lord or we will fight the wrong battles. We must employ others to join, yet be willing to fight alone in the strength of the Lord.

When women operate in their God-given roles, the Lord will use us to route the enemy. Our part is vital. Deborah played a huge role in her time of influence, and you and I have a role to play right now. Something ceases until we rise up.

*“The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy but God has come to give us abundant life.” John 10:10*

Rise up for it! Want it! Go after it! Don’t allow the abundant life of the Lord to cease. After Jesus rose to life, He appeared to the disciples several times and said, “Peace be with you!” When peace ceases we must look to the Lord for our marching orders and rise up to take action.

As Israel’s leader and prophetess, Deborah gave orders to Barak who was not willing to go to battle without her. Deborah agreed to go but told him because of his hesitation the honor would go to a woman. Barak is honored for his part in the battle (Hebrews 11:32), but the Lord did hand the enemy over to another brave woman, Jael (Judges 4:21).

Let’s be mighty women who believe the word of the Lord. We can press on in difficulty when He is leading the way. We can defeat the enemy when we follow the Lord’s plan. Even natural death is swallowed up in victory when we march on in the Lord’s army (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Like Deborah, we have a battle we must rise up and fight. Like Deborah, we must speak life to our souls and march on. Like Deborah, we must sing a victory song.

*“The Lord announces the word and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng.” Psalm 68:11*