

November 19, 2023

*Judges 4:1-7* "At That Time, Deborah was Judging Israel:

**Here we are again.**

Victory of Joshua over Jabin of Hazor a hundred years ago. (*Joshua 11:1-11*)

Jabin (may be a title like 'Pharaoh') of Hazor oppressed Israel. (*Judges 4:2*)

**Cause of trouble:** Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died.

**Where is God?** God allowed them to come under the oppression of King Jabin.

**The latest military hardware:** 900 iron chariots.

**How long did God allow this oppression?** Until they cried out to God. (20 years)

**Where do these leaders like Deborah and Samuel come from?**

Structures of the institution.

God calling people who are within or outside the structures of power.

**What was the work of Deborah in this text?**

**Prophet** listens to the LORD, the God of Israel and speaks only that to the people.

**Judge** directs decisions in tricky legal, moral, ethical, spiritual situations.

(In the New Testament: *1 Cor 5:11,12; 6:1-7*)

Church needs to work through internal conflicts. God will judge those outside the church.)

**Directs other leaders** of God's people, including military leaders. *Judges 4:6*.

**Takes responsibility for movement of the enemy** because it revealed by God. *Judges 4:7*

**Declares the fulfillment of God's purposes** even if it seems unlikely. *Judges 4:7*

**Forty years of rest** and disappears from history. *Judges 5:31* Israel still disordered.

**Who has God sent to do this work in Christ's Community Church?**

**How can God's work in a community of faith be recognized and followed?**

**What work has God called you to do in the congregation?**

**How can the focus be on what God is doing in the Kingdom of God and not on leaders per se?**