

# The Better Way

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## SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.  
Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.  
(via Zoom Meetings)

#### ELDERS

David P. Brown  
Ken Cohn  
John West

#### DEACONS

Bret Bailey  
J. D. Gunter  
Eric Paluka

#### EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

#### SECRETARY

Sonya West

## THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER

Sometimes I take for granted  
The Christian Mother who is there,  
The mother who has raised me,  
Who gave her love and care.

The Mother who helped me grow  
In a fine Christian home.  
The Mother who has taught me  
With God we're not alone.

The Mother who has laughed with me,  
When all was going well.  
The Mother who has picked me up  
The times that I have failed.

The Mother I didn't appreciate  
Until I was fully grown.  
The sacrifices she made for me  
As time quickly moved along.

The Mother with such Christian faith  
That helped me from the start.  
The Mother who I love and cherish,  
And treasure in my heart.

*Author Unknown*

# DEBORAH, A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

*J. A. McNutt*

It may appear strange to some that in an age of the world when women were regarded as inferior and treated as slaves among the heathen nations that God honored and selected a woman as the deliverer and executive leader of all Israel. Deborah was the fourth judge of Israel and one of the most prominent of the fifteen judges. She was recognized as a prophetess inspired of God and the leader behind whom Israel united to defeat the armies of Sisera and Jabin. Through her leadership the Lord's people remained free for forty more years. Without her help and encouragement Barak would never have won the victory over the Canaanites.

The name Deborah, means "A Bee." It seems that she exemplified the qualities of a bee in the active and industrious nature of her life since she was indeed a busy woman. The enemies of Israel must have found that she had another quality of the bee the ability to "sting" those who were fighting God's people.

## **SHE WAS A NATURAL LEADER**

In reading about Deborah, one immediately gains the impression that here is a strong-minded and unique woman destined to be a leader. Her personality made its impact on the events of Bible history. Being gifted with unusual spiritual, mental, and physical stamina she was a woman whom God could use in delivering His people from heathen bondage. She was a woman of such varied talents that she was able to serve well in several positions of responsibility.

## **SHE WAS A WIFE**

The Biblical record does not give us the genealogy of Deborah, so we do not know who her parents were, but we are told in Judges 4:4 that she was "the wife of Lapidoth" and we know that their home was in the hill country of Ephraim, between Bethel and Ramah. It seems that Lapidoth was overshadowed by his wife, since we are given no information as to his life, so perhaps his main distinction was in being the husband of Deborah. One need not assume as some writers have done that Lapidoth was a weakling and a "henpecked" husband just because his deeds are not recorded. He may have been a meek and quite type but not necessarily a "weak" personality. It is certain that Deborah could not have accomplished what she did as a public figure without the cooperation of her husband.

## **SHE WAS A PROPHETESS**

**"And Deborah, a prophetess."** These words indicate that the Lord was using a woman at this

time to teach, to declare the whole counsel of God, and to foretell future events relating to His plans for the nation of Israel. The prophets were God's mouthpiece in making known the wisdom and instruction for the divine guidance of His people. Deborah spoke not merely by human inspiration but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the word of Jehovah was uttered by divine inspiration.

In the days of the Old Testament, prophets and prophetesses were the media between God and his people Israel, and their gift to perceive and proclaim divine truth stamped them as being divinely inspired.

Not too many women were endowed with this gift although we remember in the New Testament we are told that Philip had four daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:9).

## **DEBORAH WAS A JUDGE**

**"She judged Israel at that time"** (Jud. 4:4). Deborah is listed as the fourth judge of Israel. **"And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment"** (Jud. 4:5). If you will note the marginal reading gives "sat" instead of "dwelt" in this verse and the context indicates that she was *sitting in judgment*. All Israel was under her jurisdiction and the people were coming to her for her decision involving legal matters. Since all women occupied a subordinate role in those days it seems strange that God chose a woman to dispense righteousness, justice, and mercy to a whole nation. It should be noted that after her leadership that resulted in victory over enemies of Israel that she continued to serve for forty years. This is quite a tribute to the wisdom and ability of a very remarkable woman.

## **SHE WAS A CAPABLE MILITARY LEADER**

One of the qualities of a great leader is the ability to inspire others to act and to display the potential strength and courage that they possess. It seems that Israel had been defeated and held in bondage until they had become dejected and discouraged and had lost their will to fight. It is a great tribute to Deborah that she was able to arouse the nation from its lethargy and despair and inspire them to rise and fight for their freedom from bondage and oppression.

She had the wisdom to call for Barak, who was a military leader among the men of Israel, and to make use of his ability. However it is very evident that he would never have led the army into battle



# JAMES: Practical Christianity (Part 2)

May 25th

## Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

These timely lessons will be presented at the church of Christ  
Located at 1380 Fish Hatchery Road, Huntsville, Texas  
Phone: 936-581-4346    Email: bruces\_l@netzero.com

The book of James is so practical that some have called it “the gospel of common sense.” Because the Christian faith is not just an organization to join or a few abstract doctrines to hold, a letter like James’ is immediately relevant to every Christian. The Christian faith requires each believer to bring every thought and action into conformity to the Word of God. It proclaims a Christian philosophy of life in stark contrast to the self-seeking, unfocused, and often tumultuous existence that frequently characterizes those outside the faith. A matter worth pondering is the fact that the very first topic James discussed involved the difficulties encountered in the Christian life. Totally foreign to him was the curious modern notion that becoming a Christian will make life easier, that all problems will disappear.

9:00 AM: Raymond Wiseman – *The Sin Of Partiality* (2:1-13)

10:00 AM: John West - *The Relationship Between Faith & Works* (2:14-26)

11:00 AM: David Brown - *The Use & Abuse Of The Tongue* (3:1-12)

*LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED*

1:30 PM: Jose Gamez - *Wisdom From Above* (3:13-18)

2:30 PM: Raymond Wiseman - *Friendship With The World Is Enmity With God* (4:1-12)

3:30 PM: *Question & Answer Session*



without the prompting of Deborah. In fact his willingness to lead was contingent upon her going with him (Jud. 4:8). Perhaps this was not a matter of cowardice however, but due to his recognition that she was a prophetess of God and that he wanted to be sure that God was with him in this campaign.

Deborah and Barak faced great odds from a human standpoint since they were going out with 10,000 men to meet Sisera's army composed of 100,000 men and equipped with 900 chariots of iron. It is a tribute to their courage that they launched the attack at all but the Lord was with them and with His help a great victory was won and Sisera trying to escape was killed by a woman (Jud. 4:18-21).

**SHE WAS A POETESS**

Anyone who takes time to read the Song of Deborah as recorded in Judges 5 will be impelled to say that she could write as well as fight. This is a remarkable song of victory and is regarded by many as one of the finest examples of Hebrew poetry. Deborah had said in the beginning that the victory would be the Lord's doing (Jud. 4:9) and in her song she gives the Lord credit for enabling Israel to win such a notable victory.

**SHE WAS A MOTHER IN ISRAEL**

Last but not least is the tribute to Deborah, in that she is spoken of as "a mother in Israel." Although this notable woman won many distinctions as a judge, a prophetess, a military leader, and a poetess, there is no greater honor ever bestowed upon a woman than that of being a true wife and mother.

*"Her home her kingdom, she its queen;  
Her reign was faithful, honest, clean,  
Impartial, loving just to each  
And every one she sought to teach.  
Her name? Of course there is no other  
In all the world so sweet—just Mother!"*

-May Baker

**Deceased**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Saturday, May 25th:** Fish Hatchery Rd Lectureship (Part #2)
- **Sunday, May 26th:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, May 28th:** Ladies' Bible Class
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship

**THOSE TO SERVE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024**

<b>Announcements</b>	Bret Bailey
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Steven Johnson <i>Rev. 14:6-12</i>
<b>Song Leader</b>	Jonathan West
<b>Prayer</b>	Steven Johnson/Andrew Paluka (AM) Gary Blasingame/Eric Paluka (PM)
<b>Speaker</b>	David Brown
	<b>Lord's Table (AM)</b> (Mark 14:55-62)
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
Bret Bailey	John West
	<b>Lord's Table (PM)</b>
J.D. Gunter	Ben Gunter
<b>Audio/Video Monitor</b>	Eric Paluka
<b>Camera/Door Monitor</b>	Joshua West

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**

*(via Zoom Meetings)*

<b>Announcements</b>	Eric Paluka
<b>Speaker</b>	J.D. Gunter
<b>Bible Class Teacher</b>	David Brown

**FOR MAY**

<b>Prepare Communion</b>	Humphrey
<b>Lock Buildings</b>	Bailey
<b>Prepare Bulletin Board</b>	N. Cohn

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

April McCain, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Lynne Humphrey, Noah Hackworth, Edith Young, Bob Terry, Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlanda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

Is Nazareth mentioned in the O.T.?

**Answer to last week's question:**  
Yes; Joshua 17:3