

WALMSLEY BIBLE STUDY – WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Session 1 Monday 13 April 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 2 Monday 11 May 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 3 Monday 8 June 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 4 Monday 13 July 2026 @ 7.30pm

SESSION 2

PREFACE : TAMAR : *Gen. Ch 38*

RAHAB : *Josh. 2:1-21*

DEBORAH (& JAEL) : Judges 4 & 5

THE SIX MARYS

WOMEN CONVERTS OF NOTE

SESSION 2:

In this session we examine the contrast between uses of power by women. We take **Deborah**, the Prophetess, raised to the position of 'Judge', or Ruler, Judiciary and Commander, over Israel; and **Jael**, the wife of Heber the Kenite who was at peace with the enemy of Deborah and Israel.

DEBORAH (& JAEL)

Background

The Times of the Judges began after the death of **Moses** and with the rise of the first judge, **Joshua**, in whose reign was the story of **Rahab**, the Harlot of Jericho, who married **Salmon**, the father of **Boaz**, the husband of **Ruth**; and ended with the election of **Saul** as first King of Israel, when the people demanded of the High Priest and Prophet that they have a king, just like their neighbouring pagan nations. It is traditional that this period lasted 480 years, but that is not really computable from the known dates of kings and from the count of the 12 Judges, and is somewhat schematic, based upon 40yrs per Judge. However, it would certainly be 300 years at least.

Read **Judges Chapter 4** (later, read the Peon to Deborah, Chapter 5, which summarises the work of Deborah & Jael)

- Q1 **Deborah** was a Prophetess. What does that infer? What other women were prophetesses? What was their status in society? How has that developed through history and who else had that status, if not in name?
- Q2 **Deborah** was also a Judge, presiding at the 'Palm of Deborah', located between 'Ramah and Bethel in the Mountains of Ephraim.' What significance do these places have in the Sacred Story of Christ? (cf Matt 2: 18 & Jer 31:15; Matt 2:6 & Micah 5:2; Gen 28:10-22 & Gen 35 :1-4; Gen 48:17-42 & Joshua Ch 17)
- Q3 What do you make of the character of **Deborah's** General, **Barak**? (nb: this is NOT the Barach of the Apocrypha – he existed during the Exile in Babylon). What was Barak's response to Deborah's command to 'do the LORD's command' and send troops to Mount Tabor to defeat the Canaanites
- Q4 What do you make of the character of **Deborah**? What about her response to **Barak**? Is this being commanding or being placative? How did she behave in battle?
- Q5 What do you make of the character of **Jael**? (There was peace between the houses of **Jabin**, King of **Hazor** and **Heber**, the Kenite, husband of **Jael**.) What do the actions of **Jael** towards **Sisera**, **Jabin's** General, tell you?
- Q6 What does the **Peon of Deborah** (Ch 5) tell you about the characters in this story (Ch 4)? Why are such violent acts revered and blessed by the 'Angel of the LORD'? (see last verse) How can we see this usefully in our own world and our own walk of life?