



## Female Leadership and Cooperation

The following excerpt describes a brave woman who changed the course of a war.

Deborah the prophetess is a deep character: she was a spiritual woman and connected to God – as a prophetess; she judges the Israelites so righteously, that the whole nation would come to her court.

At the same time the nation of Israel experienced a terrible threat – Sisera and his army threatened Israel with conquest. Barak, who was meant to lead the people of Israel, was scared. He asked Deborah for cooperation:

*And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go... And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh."*

*Judges 4:8-9*

In the moment of truth Deborah decided to lead, despite society's expectations of her.

Deborah's story is full of cooperation, unity and rising to the occasion. Barak's request and Deborah eagerness to help have helped bring victory over a common threat.

Had Deborah thought only about the danger, she wouldn't have taken the position of leadership. And in that instance, who knows how long Sisera's rule would have lasted?

And what about yourself? Who is the Sisera in your life? If you know that you can't fight alone, will you call for help?

What was Deborah's source of strength? What empowered her to action?

---

How did Deborah empower Barak to go into battle?

---

What motivates you to overcome obstacles and preserver with your life plan??

---