

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: DEBORAH AS A LEADER
WEEK: 5
TERM: SECOND

DEBORAH LEADS THE PEOPLE TO VICTORY

(Judges 4:1-12)

Ehud was a judge in Israel but after his death the people rebelled against the Lord and so God allowed the Canaanite King **Jabin of Hazor** to conquer and rule them cruelly for **twenty years**. The commander of Jabin's army was Sisera who lived in Harosheth-hagoiim – who had nine hundred chariots of iron.

During this time, Deborah – the wife of Lapidoth, a prophetess was a judge who sits under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in Ephraim, where the people come for judgment. She summoned Barak the son of Abinoam, from Kadesh in Naphtali to take ten thousand soldiers from **Naphtali and Zebulun** and go to Mount Tabor near River Kishon where God will conquer Sisera. Barak agreed to raise army and to fight if only Deborah, the prophetess would accompany him to battle. Deborah made him realize that the glory of the war would go to a woman if she was to accompany him.

Both Deborah and Barak led the army of Israel against the Canaanites. Sisera, the commander of Canaanites army fled on foot when God sent confusion into their midst. He then hid himself in the tent of **Jael**, the wife of Heber, the Kenite.

He requested for water but Jael gave him milk but while Sisera slept, Jael killed him by driving a tent peg into his temple and she later showed his corpse to Barak.

The army of children of Israel defeated the Canaanites but the glory of the war went to a woman – Jael as prophesied by Deborah.

Deborah possessed some leadership traits which are as follows:

1. She was courageous and had great confidence in God.
2. For Deborah to be judge in Israel and her judgment respected where there was no regard for women, she was a woman of rare gem, quality, high level of honesty and integrity.

3. Deborah was a successful leader because through her, the problem of oppression by King Jabin over Israel was solved.

Explain three ways woman can take up leadership roles in the society.