

A woman with dark hair, wearing a brown tunic and a green shawl, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a large bundle of golden straw or hay. Her gaze is directed upwards and to the right, with a look of hope or determination. The background is a dark, textured, mottled grey-blue.

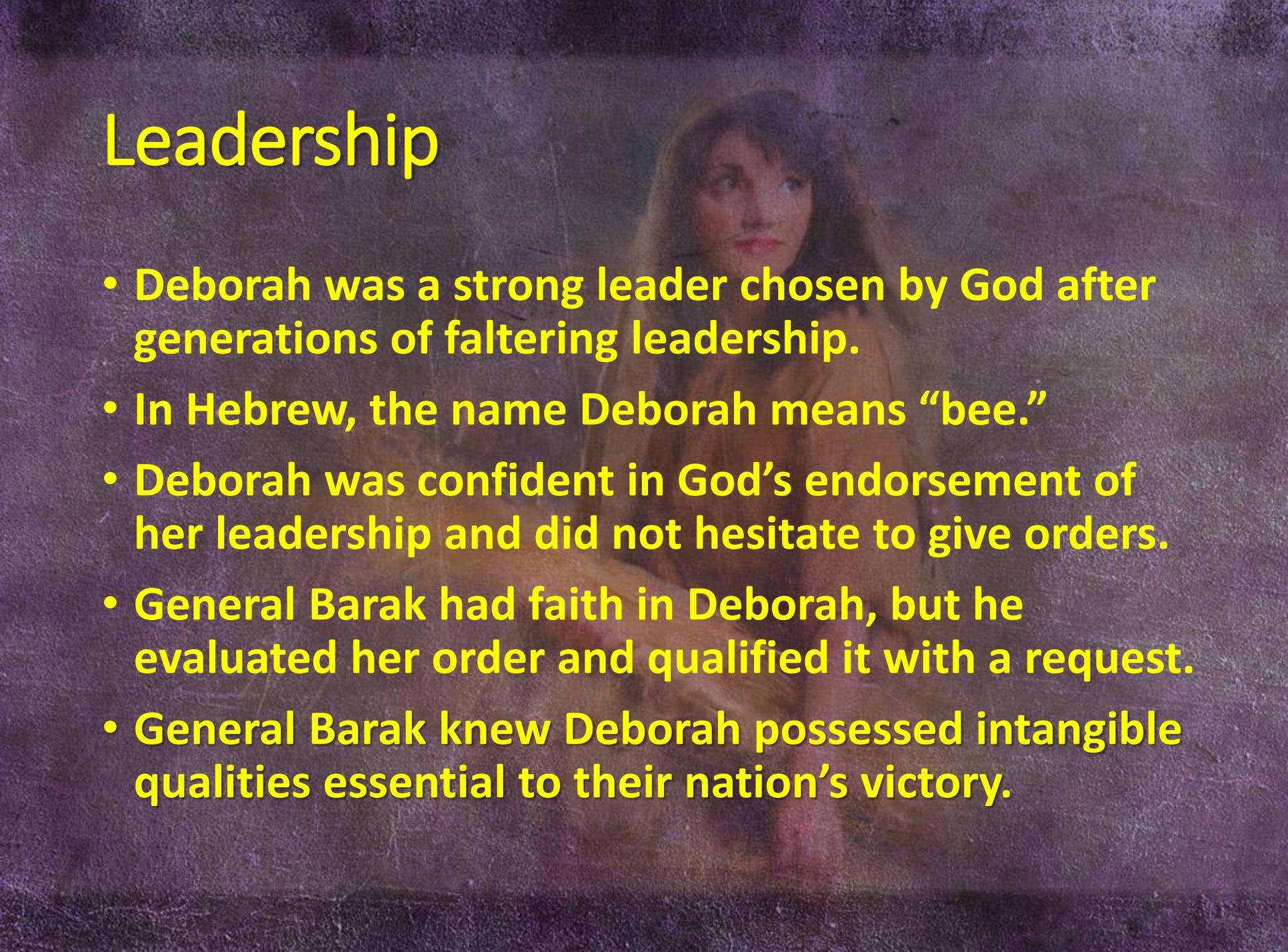
That's Going to Leave a Mark!

Judges 4:1-5:1

Deborah

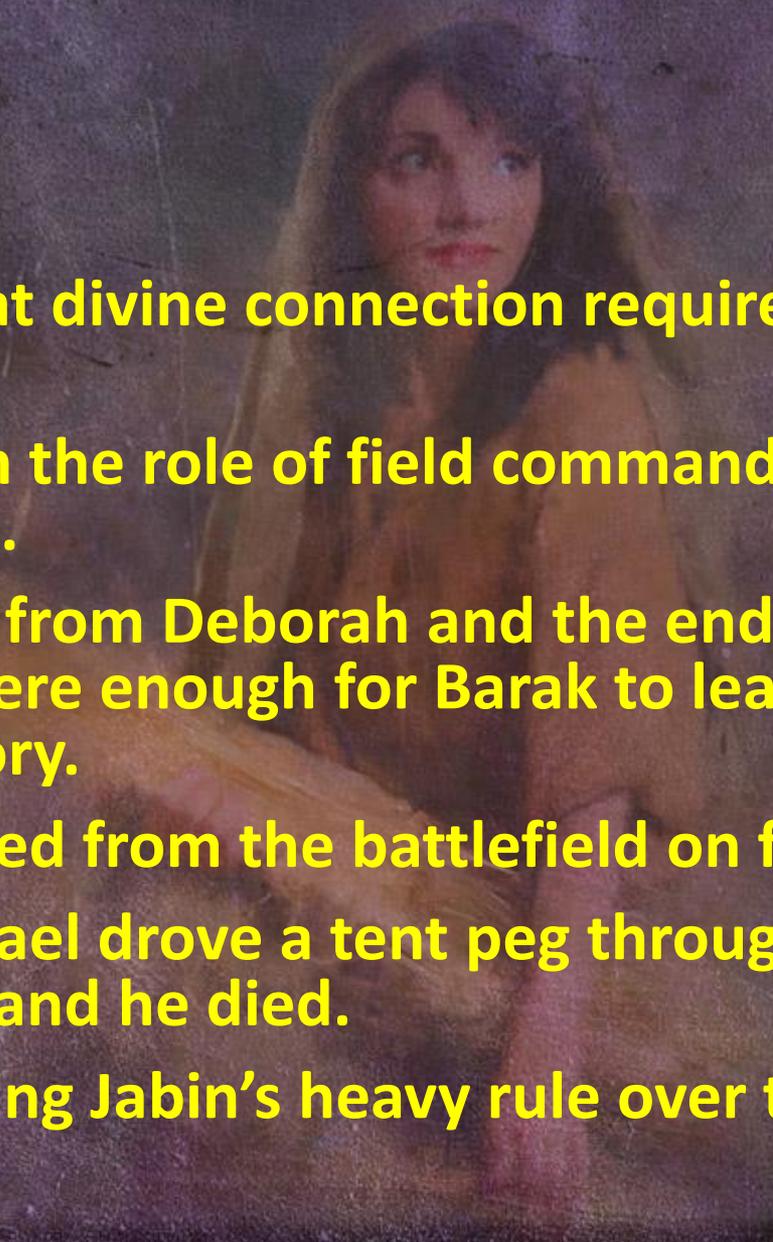
- The only thing the Bible tells us about Deborah is her husband's name.
- Deborah was recognized for her own merits: a judge, a decider, a leader, and a prophetess.
- She was respected by the Israelites.
- Deborah judged and led Israel for 60 years.
- During this time, there was no central government, just an awkward union of twelve tribes.
- The role of leadership was difficult because the leader had to also nurture the nation's spiritual responsibilities.

Leadership



- **Deborah was a strong leader chosen by God after generations of faltering leadership.**
- **In Hebrew, the name Deborah means “bee.”**
- **Deborah was confident in God’s endorsement of her leadership and did not hesitate to give orders.**
- **General Barak had faith in Deborah, but he evaluated her order and qualified it with a request.**
- **General Barak knew Deborah possessed intangible qualities essential to their nation’s victory.**

The Battle



- Deborah had that divine connection required of an Israelite leader.
- Deborah took on the role of field commander when the battle began.
- The instructions from Deborah and the endorsement from the Lord were enough for Barak to lead his armies into victory.
- General Sisera fled from the battlefield on foot.
- As prophesied, Jael drove a tent peg through General Sisera's temple, and he died.
- The burden of King Jabin's heavy rule over their lives was lifted.

Conclusion

- Deborah was a willing vessel, ready for God to use her.
- Deborah did not make excuses about her gender or the task God laid before her.
- The legacy Deborah left behind was that she listened to God.
- The problem today is not that God is silent, but that we are inattentive.
- The war is not over; it continues today.
- It is hard for us to be sensitive to the purposes of God.
- If we will listen to God and heed what we hear, there is assurance of victory.