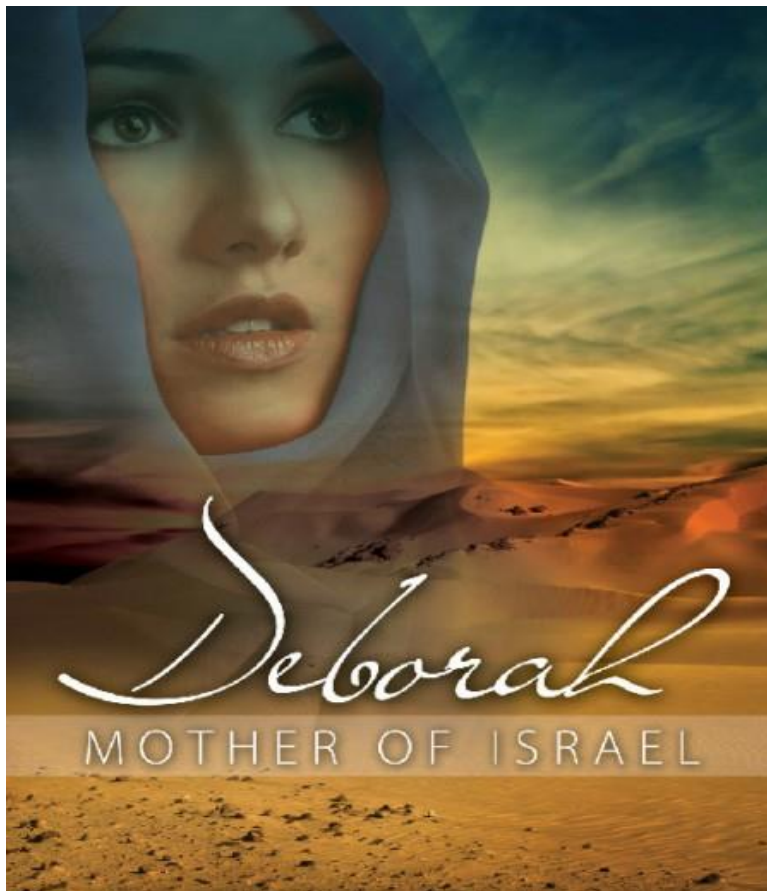


# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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25/07/2021 -- Women of the Bible –Deborah

Deborah – A lady to be respected.



Today is "Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

1 Peter 3:15

**Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.**

Our first song today is: "Father God I wonder"

[Father God I Wonder \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist  
 Without the knowledge of your parenthood and your loving care.  
 But now I am your child, I am adopted in your family,  
 And I can never be alone,  
 'Cause Father God, you're there beside me.

I will sing your praises,  
 I will sing your praises,  
 I will sing your praises,  
 Forever more.  
 I will sing your praises,  
 I will sing your praises,  
 I will sing your praises,  
 Forever more.

**The reading today is Judges 4 [Judges 4 NIVUK - Deborah - Again the Israelites did evil - Bible Gateway](#)**

**Panel 1 (Top Left):** In the story of Deborah, Deborah was a prophetess and a Judge. There has been some conflict between the Israelites and Sisera. This led to them wanting to go fight each other and now Deborah is thinking of a plan to help.  
 \*How can I help the Israelite defeat Sisera from this battle that they are about to have?\*

**Panel 2 (Top Middle):** Deborah then was given directions from the Lord to find a man named Barak. This led to Barak having to go to Mount Tabor with 10,000 men so God can help the Israelites win against Sisera.  
 \*My name is Barak, Nice to meet you!\*

**Panel 3 (Top Right):** Barak listened to Deborah, but refused to go if Deborah did not go with him. This will lead to no leader for the Israelites because Barak was the one to be if Deborah did not go with him.  
 \*I will go if you will go with me.\*

**Panel 4 (Middle Left):** Deborah decides to go with Barak because of him being chosen to be the leader of the Israelites and will not win the battle between Sisera if Barak was not there leading the men.  
 \*Both traveling to Mount Tabor\*

**Panel 5 (Middle Middle):** Deborah then predicts that Barak that was supposed to lead the Israelites was not the one to kill Sisera. This was the thought that only Deborah had and he did not know.  
 \*Barak was not the one to kill Sisera.\*

**Panel 6 (Middle Right):** A woman named Jael covered Sisera's head with a tent peg and killed Sisera with a Hammer. This story of Deborah ended with them having victory in this battle and singing songs with Barak and thanking God.  
 \*Kills Sisera with hammer\*

**Panel 7 (Bottom Right):** By: Emilio Pascual

## **Deborah – A lady to be respected**

I want to start with a question—Is respect given or earned? Should respect just be automatically given or does respect need to be earned? I tend to think that it is both. Although our culture tends to withhold respect until it is earned, sometimes it is a matter of trust and faith to give a certain amount of respect before it is earned.

And I'm sure that today's lady, Deborah, felt that way. Deborah was a woman when it definitely was not a beneficial to being a woman. Yet, somehow in a world dominated by men she achieved an amazing status.

The bible tells that she was a mother that became a mother to all of Israel. She was a prophetess. She heard from God and relayed those messages to the people. And the people respected her. They respected her wisdom and her insight. She brought forth the Word of the Lord and they came to her to settle disputes just like they had done with Moses and would do with Solomon.

But things weren't well in Israel. This was a period of history when Israel would often stray from the Lord and worship everything else. When that would happen, God would raise up someone, a judge, to get them back on the right track. Then they would do well for a little while and get off track again. This happened again and again. Deborah was one of the people that God chose to help lead Israel back to faithfulness.

At a time when Israel were being dominated by King Jabin who had a leader named Sisera that commanded 900 chariots. The people asked God to help them and God did by raising up a woman, Deborah.

God directed Deborah to enlist the help of Barack and ten thousand foot soldiers. Deborah told Barack how to attack, when to attack, and where. Barack would be a hero.

One little problem. Barack wasn't quite sure of this. Which is understandable since Deborah was a woman. Barack wanted Deborah to come along. The Scripture tells us that Barack didn't quite have enough faith to believe what God had said. So God gave the honour of slaying the enemy commander to another woman.

It was then that Deborah led the people in worship where she detailed in song all that God had done. (Judges 5)

Deborah had gained an amazing amount of respect in a day and age that had all the cards stacked against.

So was Deborah given or earned respect. The first thing is that Deborah had an immense self-respect. She was confident in how God had made her and how God was using her. She didn't need to prove herself to others. Now she didn't run over others but she followed her convictions. She stood up for herself when needed like when Barack showed a lack of confidence in her words. She didn't take it personally but simply told Barack that because he was lacking in faith, he would miss out on the honour and glory of having completed the task that God has assigned.

If you really want to earn the respect of others, you begin by respecting yourself. This means doing what is right in God's eyes. Not cutting corners. Not engaging in lifestyles and activities that you know would be wrong in God's eyes. Lying, cheating, stealing, being selfish, outbursts of rage and anger, constantly breaking promises, manipulating people, gossiping, slandering people, being unkind to others and so on. These are all examples of ways that we destroy our own self-respect and dignity when we engage in these. Sure we hurt others but we hurt ourselves perhaps even more.

To build a sense of respect in yourself, follow your convictions. Follow those things that you know to be right and pure and true and noble and right in God's eyes. If you set realistic expectations for yourself through these then you will usually exceed the expectations of others and you won't be bothered when others place unrealistic expectations on you.

Gaining the respect of others always begins by respecting yourself.

Next we see Deborah wasn't afraid to respect others. She respected Barak. Even though he doubted, she didn't berate him. She told him the consequences. She didn't try to take over for Barak. She went with him to support him. She was secure enough to serve Barak as advisor. She gave God the credit in song and wasn't afraid to let everyone know of Barak's part in the victory as well as a woman named Jael. Because of this, Israel enjoyed peace for forty years.

The people of Israel didn't really need a judge, a leader, a prophetess, or even self-respect. They needed the Lord. They needed to return to the Lord and follow His ways. They had lost their self-respect because they had sacrificed it on the altar of idols.

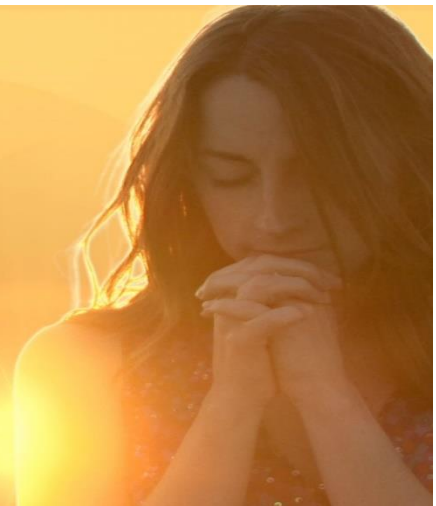
Today, as we plan the return to our new normality, help us to give each other the respect we should as a church so we can move forward stronger as we give God the glory.

### **Today's Pray:**

Dear God.

We are grateful that through you we can gain a self-respect which will bring others to you. Help us to show that respect to others so we can truly give you the glory.

**Amen.**



## Our second hymn for today “to God be the Glory”

[To God Be the Glory \(Tune: To God Be the Glory\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the earth hear His voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord...*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord...*





# Deborah and Berek

B	I	P	B	E	T	H	E	L	T	D	H	E	E
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R	Y	O	D	P	A	S	I	O	S	T	A	E	M
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M	S	E	R	O	R	I	N	R	B	U	T	R	R
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C	A	O	O	D	N	A	D	T	B	R	P	D	I
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R	R	P	S	A	D	E	S	S	E	R	P	P	O

TABOR  
MOUNT  
CHARIOTS  
RAMAH  
ARMY  
OPPRESSED  
PROPHETESS  
TROOPS  
CANAAN  
ISRAELITE  
DEBORAH  
PALM  
BETHEL  
LORD  
SISERA  
THOUSANDS  
LEADER  
EPHRAIM  
BARAK

