

SERMON NOTES
June 26, 2011
Bryan Richardson, preaching

God's Unexpected Ways: Deborah Among the Judges
Judges 5:6-12, 24-27, 31

God reveals himself in the way he saves.

- When there is no room in the human imagination for God's unexpected ways, there is no room to live (v.6).

- God will save, and you will not prescribe the method (v.8).

Deborah: Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'" (Judges 5:4-7)

Barak: Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."
"Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.
(Judges 5:8-10)

Jael: vv. 24-27

- Why does God come to us by way of the unexpected? v. 7

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY...

Judges 5:6-12; 24-27; 31

- 6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned;
travelers took to winding paths.
- 7 Villagers in Israel would not fight;
they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
until I arose, a mother in Israel.
- 8 God chose new leaders
when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen
among forty thousand in Israel.
- 9 My heart is with Israel's princes,
with the willing volunteers among the people.
Praise the Lord!
- 10 You who ride on white donkeys,
sitting on your saddle blankets,
and you who walk along the road,
consider 11 the voice of the singers at the watering places.
They recite the victories of the Lord,
the victories of his villagers in Israel.
Then the people of the Lord
went down to the city gates.
- 12 'Wake up, wake up, Deborah!
Wake up, wake up, break out in song!
Arise, Barak!
Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.'
- 24 Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.
- 25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk;
in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk.
- 26 Her hand reached for the tent peg,
her right hand for the workman's hammer.
She struck Sisera, she crushed his head,
she shattered and pierced his temple.
- 27 At her feet he sank,
he fell; there he lay.
At her feet he sank, he fell;
where he sank, there he fell—dead.
- 31 "So may all your enemies perish, Lord!
But may all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength."

Then the land had peace forty years.