

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE



BIBLE CHARACTER STUDY OLD TESTAMENT:

#11 — Old Testament Women (Deborah, Ruth, & Esther)

Deborah — Prophetess & Judge — Who Becomes a Warrior!

Deborah (Judges 4-5) — One Woman Goes to War — & Jael — One Woman Stays Home

MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OF DEBORAH:

DEBORAH — Prophetess and Judge of Israel (Persuades King Barak to go to war — Goes to battle with him)
BARAK — Commander of the army of Israel (Reluctant King — Persuaded by Deborah to go to war against the Canaanites)
JABIN — King of Canaan — (Enemy King — His army is utterly destroyed in the battle with Barak and Deborah)
SISERA — Commander of Jabin's army (Enemy Commander — After his army is destroyed, he seeks shelter and is killed by Jael)
JAELE — Jewish woman who stays home (She kills the Canaanite Commander in his sleep — with a tent peg through his skull)

Judges 4:8 (Deborah — “I will surely go with you...”) BARAK TO DEBORAH: “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!” 9 So she [DEBORAH] said, “I will surely go with you...”

Judges 5:2 (Deborah — “When leaders lead in Israel... Bless the Lord!”)

DEBORAH, PRAISING GOD AFTER VICTORY: “When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the Lord!”

Ruth — Poor Widow from Moab — Who Becomes an Ancestor of Christ!

Ruth (Book of Ruth) — One Woman Commits to Join God's People

MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OF RUTH:

NAOMI — Jewish Widow (Flees to Moab in famine—Loses husband/sons—Returns to Bethlehem—Calls herself MARA or “bitter”)
RUTH — Young Moabite Widow and Naomi's Daughter-in-Law (Faithfully follows Naomi to Bethlehem—Turns to God—Marries Boaz)
BOAZ — Wealthy Land-owner from Bethlehem and Naomi's Relative (Marries Ruth — Analogy of Christ as a “Kinsman Redeemer”)
(Boaz & Ruth have Obed—Obed has Jesse—Jesse has David—David becomes King of Israel—Jesus is known as “Son of David”)

Ruth 1:16 (Ruth — “Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”)

RUTH TO NAOMI: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.”

Esther — Orphaned Jewish Girl — Who Becomes the Queen of Persia!

Story of Esther (Book of Esther) — One Woman Surrenders & Saves God's People

MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OF ESTHER:

HADDASAH or “ESTHER” — Beautiful Jewish orphan (Raised by cousin Mordecai—Becomes Queen of Persia—Saves God's People)
MORDECAI — Esther's Cousin (Exiled Jew from tribe of Benjamin—Raises Esther as a daughter—Gives her wise and godly counsel)
KING AHASUERUS — King of Persia (Identified as King Xerxes I—Banishes Queen Vashti—Chooses Esther as his new Queen)
HAMAN — King's Evil Assistant (Hates Mordecai and all Jews—In the end, Haman is hung on the gallows he built for Mordecai)

Esther 4:13-16 (Esther — “I will go to the king... and if I perish, I perish!”)

MORDECAI TO ESTHER: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
ESTHER'S REPLY: 16 “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”

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