

## **Arise, People, Arise**

Thousands of years ago there was a woman whose name meant “bee.” Now in the natural, we recognize the bee to be a rather small creature but hard a worker; whether the queen who creates all the babies or the workers who do not breed but who feed the hatched larvae. Now, I believe that “Bee” was industrious and she was intelligent. This woman was real leader – not a “Wanna Bee.” “Bee” was truly a woman of purpose and destiny.

As the account goes, she was also a married woman and her husband’s name meant “fire”. Wow, Bee must have been married to our today’s male version of a hottie! And besides being married; this woman was the judge of an entire nation. She settled cases on a daily basis in an out door court.

Now at a certain time in the history of this nation, they had to go to war as God had instructed his people to take the land of the Canaanites. So Bee went to the captain of the army, whose name meant “lightning” and told him that it was time to get up, gather 10,000 men and go to war. And Lightning told Bee, “I will go if you go with me”. And Bee told Lightning, “I will indeed go with you into battle, but you must know and understand that the enemy will be taken by the hand of a woman.” To paraphrase, “Lightning, my friend, you will not receive sole honor for this victory – a woman will.” And so together Lightning and Bee led 10,000 warriors into battle and they overcame the enemy, but the captain of the army of the enemy whose name meant “one who is perceptive” got away – he actually ran away on foot. And soon after his escape he came in contact with another woman whose name meant “mountain goat”. Now, Mountain Goat recognized who this man was, and gave him refuge. He asked for water and she gave him a glass of milk. I imagine that she possibly even heated it up so that it could act as a sort of sedative. And as he slept she killed him by driving a stake through his head. Apparently, “one who is perceptive” wasn’t perceptive enough that day!

So here we have it Bee (married to a male hottie named Fire) Lightning and Mountain goat. These folks lived in a time when their nation had been oppressed for 20 years and the Israelites had cried out to God for deliverance and Deborah was the answer to their prayers. Surely, she was not what they expected as this was a very male orientated society. But, none the less she moved in the world of men as a respected leader and she wasn’t even a queen. Her name meant “Bee”. Bees are always associated with honey and a stinger and I believe that she had both. She was perhaps soft and sweet and nurturing but a warrior when she needed to be. I believe that that woman walked softly but carried a big stick!

These folks lived in a very chaotic time and it was Deborah whom God used to bring order out of chaos. She was a prophet- one who spoke forth the oracles of God, one who taught the people God’s ways. She was one who inspired and encouraged God’s people. This woman was gifted by God and her dependence was on Him and that is why she was successful. When she went to Barak (Lightning) and spoke to him what thus saith the Lord, he did not question whether or not the word was from God; he knew that it was. And whereas he seemed to waver in his faith, she did not. “Bee” was the one who said, “Let’s ride!” Deborah was a child of Jehovah, a wife, a prophet, a judge, and a warrior. She was a child of God living out her destiny.

And let’s not forget about Jael, a woman of the tent! Remember her name meant “mountain goat – seemingly insignificant mountain goat, stand on the side of a steep mountain, always grazing mountain goat. She was a housewife married to a man who had allied himself with the enemy, possibly because he wanted to be on the winning side; not knowing that that there was more to the woman that he married than he could ever imagine. God would use that housewife who just happened to be in the right place at the

right time to completely secure the victory for an entire nation. She was not a judge or a prophet, just an ordinary woman whom God used to do an extraordinary thing.

I believe that God is calling us to take the limits off of Him. Perhaps we have limited God by our own preconceived ideas. But there is no limit to how God will use us; if we will take the limits off of Him. There is no limit as to how God will use us if you will take him out of the man-made boxes that we have created because of our traditions. People, is our vision too small?

God wants to do some things in our lives so big that it will literally astound us! He has placed gifts on the inside of so many that have lain dormant and I believe He wants to activate those gifts to send His people forth. God is looking for two things; availability and obedience. He is asking us to simply say yes to Him. Yes, Lord I make myself available. Yes, Lord I choose to walk in obedience to you. Yes, Lord I need a fresh infilling of your Holy Spirit to prepare me for destiny!

Honey and a stinger! Satan and a sword! Arise, people arise!

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