

April 3 Answers

- 1) The judgship of Deborah (Jdg 4–5). Deborah, who was a **prophetess**, was judging Israel during the time of **Jabin's** tyranny. While women did on rare occasions rise to prominence in Israel, Deborah was unique in that she was the **first** and **only** woman to exercise civil authority at God's direction (Jdg 2:18). This shows us that God sometimes uses women to highlight the **refusal** of men to shoulder the responsibility of **leadership**. Indeed, the commander of Israel's forces, Barak, was presented as a man whose faith was **weak**. God told him to go and assured him of victory, but he wouldn't budge unless Deborah went with him. Deborah agreed to go, but she told Barak that the honor of victory would not be his—it would go to a **woman**. And that's exactly what happened. Sisera fled to the home of an ally, Heber, only to have Heber's wife, **Jael**, put a tent peg through his skull. This teaches us that we should never put **conditions** on our obedience. If we do, God may give the **honor** to someone else, and we won't **achieve** all that we could have for God's glory. There can be no **"if"** in a response of obedient faith.