

The story of Deborah in the Old Testament Book of Judges follows a pattern of the entire Book. It begins by saying that Israel had done what was evil in God's sight and so He delivered them into the hands of their enemies. Then they cried out to the Lord for help, and He heard their cry by sending them an anointed leader.

In this narrative, however, the person chosen to defeat Israel's enemy and restore peace was a woman. This twist in tradition has caused a little confusion among Bible scholars over the years and many interesting explanations have been put forward.

Some have actually misapplied the story, suggesting it is to show that women's virtues are superior to those of men. But when you compare more carefully the narrative of chapter four with the poem in chapter five, you notice the writer's intention is not to attribute some sort of superhuman bravery to Deborah and Jael, but to evidence the cowardliness of most men of that particular generation!