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Women On The Frontline

Judges 4:4-9;17-22 (AMPC)

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife
of Lappidoth, judged Israel at that time.
5 She sat under the palm tree of
Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in
the hill country of Ephraim, and the
Israelites came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded [you], Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun?

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7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you at the river Kishon with his chariots and his multitude, and I will deliver him into your hand?

8 And Barak said to her, If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.

9 And she said, I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the trip you take will not be for your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. [Fulfilled in Judg. 4:22.]

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17 But Sisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the
wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace
between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of
Heber the Kenite.
18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to
him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no
fear. So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she
covered him with a rug.

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19 And he said to her, Give me, I pray you, a little water to drink for I am thirsty. And she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him.

20 And he said to her, Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, Is there any man here? Tell him, No.

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21 But Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent pin and a hammer in
her hand and went softly to him and drove the pin
through his temple and into the ground; for he was in a
deep sleep from weariness. So he died.
22 And behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to
meet him and said to him, Come, and I will show you the
man you seek. And when he came into her tent, behold,
Sisera lay dead, and the tent pin was in his temples.

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SOME CURRENT STATS ON WOMEN

- Women are now the primary or equal breadwinners in nearly 50% of all U.S. households with children under 18 (up from 15% in 1960).*
- Over 60% of family caregivers in the "sandwich generation" (managing both children and aging parents) are women, investing 2.5 to 3 times more hours in unpaid family management than men.*
- Over 15 million single-mother households exist across the United States.8%–29% of households are single female-headed. **

*Pew Research Center ("Breadwinner Moms" & "The Changing American Family" Reports)

**U.S. Census Bureau (Current Population Survey & American Community Survey)

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SOME CURRENT STATS ON WOMEN*

- (Black mothers serve as primary or co-breadwinners in ~80% of Black families).
- Latina Families: ~40% of households are headed by unmarried women.
- White Families: Over 20% are single female-headed (representing the largest overall national count).
- Asian Families: ~10%–12% of households are single female-headed.
- Detroit, over 70% of family households with children are female-headed with no spouse present.

*U.S. Census Bureau (Current Population Survey & American Community Survey)

SOME CURRENT STATS ON WOMEN

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- Women own over 13 million businesses in the U.S. (accounting for 42% of all American companies).*
- Women-owned businesses employ nearly 10 million workers and generate $1.9 trillion in annual revenue*
- Higher Education: Women earn ~58% of Bachelor's degrees, 60% of Master's degrees, and >53% of Doctorate/Professional degrees in the United States.**
- Corporate Leadership: Women hold over 41% of all managerial, professional, and executive positions in the U.S. labor force.**

*NAWBO & American Express (State of Women-Owned Businesses Report)

**U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) & NCES (Digest of Education Statistics)

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1. THE PALM (4:4-7)

2. THE PIVOT (8&9)

3. THE PEG AND THE POUNDER (17-22)

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THE PALM (VS. 4:4-7)

Deborah's Seat of Strategy

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5 She sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

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THE PIVOT (VS. 8&9)

Deborah's Shift to the Battlefield

8 And Barak said to her, If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.

9 And she said, I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the trip you take will not be for your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. [Fulfilled in Judg. 4:22.]

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THE PEG AND THE POUNDER

(VS. 17-22)

Jael's Strike of Deliverance

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of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin
the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.
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Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no fear. So
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THANK YOU WOMEN FOR BEING ON THE FRONTLINE OF:

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NEXT WEEK: THE POWER IN THE PAIR: MARRIAGE

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