

GOD'S LEADERS, GOD'S PEOPLE

2. BARAK

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Judges 4–5

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Judges 4

4:1 Then the sons of Israel continued to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, after Ehud died.

4:2 And Yahweh sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan ...; and the commander of his army was Sisera

4:3 The sons of Israel cried to Yahweh; for he had nine hundred iron chariots, and he oppressed the sons of Israel severely for twenty years.

4:4 Now Deborah, a woman, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, she—she was judging Israel at that time.

4:5 She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel ... and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment.

4:6 Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, “Behold, Yahweh, the God of Israel, has commanded, ‘Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men’

4:7 ‘I will have Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, march out to you, with his chariots and his many troops ..., and I will give him into your hand.’”

4:8 Then 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.”

4:9 She said, “I will surely go with you; for, indeed, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for, indeed, Yahweh will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak

4:11 Now Heber the Kenite ... had pitched his tent as far away ... near Kedesh.

4:14 Deborah said to Barak, “Arise! For this is the day in which Yahweh has given Sisera into your hands; behold, Yahweh has gone out before you.” ...

4:15 Yahweh routed Sisera and all the chariots and all the army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera went down off the chariot and he fled on foot.

4:16 But Barak **pursued** the chariots and the army ..., and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not even one was left.

4:18 Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, “Turn aside, my master, turn aside to me! Do not be afraid.” And he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.

4:19 He said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So she opened a bottle of milk and gave him a drink; then she covered him.

4:20 He said to her, “Stand in the doorway of the tent, and it shall be if anyone comes and inquires of you, and says, ‘Is there any man here?’ that you shall say, ‘No.’”

4:21 But Jael, Heber’s wife, took a tent peg and seized a hammer in her hand, and went secretly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went through into the ground; for he was sound asleep and exhausted. So he died.

4:22 And behold, as Barak **pursued** Sisera, Jael came out to meet him and said to him, “Go, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.” And he entered with her, and behold Sisera fallen dead with the tent peg in his temple.

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4:23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the sons of Israel.

Judges 5

5:24 “Most blessed of women is Jael, Most blessed is she”