

Deborah and Barak

Judges 4 – 5

by Don Falkos

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After twenty years of oppression by a Canaanite king and his military commander, Sisera, the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

A prophetess named Deborah had become a judge, a leader, in Israel. One day she sent for Barak and said, "Take ten thousand warriors to Mount Tabor. The Lord will give you victory over Sisera."

Barak said, "I'll go, but only if you go with me."

She replied, "If that's what you want, but then the credit for killing Sisera will go to a woman."

Barak agreed, so they set off.

Sisera met them at Mount Tabor with all his warriors and his nine hundred iron chariots. Barak led his men down the slopes of the mountain and attacked. The Lord threw Sisera's army into a panic. As they fled, Sisera leapt from his chariot and escaped on foot. Barak chased down and killed Sisera's men – every last one of them.

Meanwhile, Sisera took refuge in the tent of woman named Jael. She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket. Exhausted, he fell asleep. Jael quietly crept up to him and drove a tent peg through his temple into the ground.

When Barak came searching for his enemy, Jael said, "Come, I'll show you the man you're looking for." He followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying dead on the ground.

That day, Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to the Lord.

In time, the cruel Canaanite king was overthrown and there was peace in the land of Israel for forty years.