

The Buzzing Bee Judges 4-5

July 9, 2023

Judges 4:1-3

¹When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.

²So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army *was* Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

³And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel.



ARAMEANS

Mediterranean Sea



ASHER

NAPHTALI

ZEBULUN

ISSACHAR

BASAN

Capernaum

Tyre

Dan

Cedes

Haroz

Kinnezet

Astarot

Cammat

Edrei

Kamen

Ramot de Galaad

Dor

Acraf

Mount Tabar

Jafis

Harzeel

Joshua and Jabin at
Hazor
Joshua 11:13

¹³ But *as for* the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, *which* Joshua burned.





Days of the Judges

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Jabin and Sisera

The Bee (Deborah)

Judges 4:4-9

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

⁶ Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy *troops* at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

⁷ and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; 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 So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Deborah as Judge

- A prophetess
- Wife of Lapidoth
- Judging Israel



Map of Rama
and Bethel in
Ephraim

ISRAEL
IN THE TIME OF
THE JUDGES



Bethel

Ramah

Dead Sea

Hazor

Lake
Galilee

Harosheth-haggoyim

Responsibilities of Judgeship

- Shared informal, unappointed spiritual counsel
- Rarely led Israelite relief
- Provided spiritual counsel
- Identified as a prophetess, not uncommon

❖ Miriam	→	Exodus 15:20
❖ Huldah	→	2 Kings 22:14-20
❖ Anna	→	Luke 2:36



The Bee calls Barak, son of Abinoam in Naphtali

- Deploy 10,000 troops at Mount Taber
- Take from your own tribe
- Face Jabin's champion Sisero and his 900 chariots
- Battle took place at River Kishon
- Barak said that Deborah must accompany him.
- Sisera will fall—but to a woman.

Sisera's End Judges 4:10-24

¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite, of the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent near the terebinth tree at Zaanaim, which *is* beside Kedesh.

¹² And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

Sisera's End Judges 4:10-24

Continued

¹³ So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who *were* with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon.

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this *is* the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

¹⁵ And the LORD routed Sisera and all *his* chariots and all *his* army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from *his* chariot and fled away on foot.

¹⁶ But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

Sisera's End Judges 4:10-24

Continued

¹⁷ However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for *there was* peace between Jabin 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; do not fear.” And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a [\[c\]](#)blanket.

¹⁹ Then he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So she opened a jug of milk, 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 inquires of you, and says, ‘Is there any man here?’ you shall say, ‘No.’ ”

Sisera's End Judges 4:10-24

Continued

- ²¹ Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.
- ²² And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he went into her *tent*, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple.
- ²³ So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.
- ²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.



- River Kishon to Harosheth Hagoyim
- Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite
- Jabin destroyed

Map of Area of Battle



The Song of Deborah Judges 5:1-12

¹Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:

² “When leaders lead in Israel,
When the people willingly offer themselves,
Bless the LORD!

³ “Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes!
I, *even* I, will sing to the LORD;
I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

⁴ “LORD, when You went out from Seir,
When You marched from the field of Edom,
The earth trembled and the heavens poured,
The clouds also poured water;

⁵ The mountains ^[c]gushed before the LORD,
This Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.

⁶ “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
In the days of Jael,
The highways were deserted,
And the travelers walked along the byways.

The Song
of Deborah
Judges 5:1-12

Continued

⁷ Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel,
Until I, Deborah, arose,
Arose a mother in Israel.

⁸ They chose new gods;
Then *there was* war in the gates;
Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

⁹ My heart *is* with the rulers of Israel
Who offered themselves willingly with the people.
Bless the LORD!

¹⁰ “Speak, you who ride on white donkeys,
Who sit in judges’ attire,
And who walk along the road.

¹¹ Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places,
There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD,
The righteous acts *for* His villagers in Israel;
Then the people of the LORD shall go down to the gates.

¹² “Awake, awake, Deborah!
Awake, awake, sing a song!
Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away,
O son of Abinoam!

The Song of Deborah

- Leaders Lead and people offer themselves
- Jael makes the song
- White donkeys and judges' attire

Song of the War

Judges 5:13-23

13 “Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles;

The LORD came down for me against the mighty.

14 From Ephraim *were* those whose roots were in Amalek.

After you, Benjamin, with your peoples,

From Machir rulers came down,

And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter’s staff.

15 And the princes of Issachar *were* with Deborah;

As Issachar, so *was* Barak

Sent into the valley under his command;

Among the divisions of Reuben

There were great resolves of heart.

16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds,

To hear the pipings for the flocks?

The divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart.

Song of the War

Judges 5:13-23 Continued

¹⁷ Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan,
And why did Dan remain on ships?
Asher continued at the seashore,
And stayed by his inlets.

¹⁸ Zebulun *is* a people *who* jeopardized their
lives to the point of death,
Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

¹⁹ “The kings came *and* fought,
Then the kings of Canaan fought
In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo;
They took no spoils of silver.

Song of the War

Judges 5:13-23

20 They fought from the heavens;
The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.

21 The torrent of Kishon swept them away,
That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon.
O my soul, march on in strength!

22 Then the horses' hooves pounded,
The galloping, galloping of his steeds.

23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD,
'Curse its inhabitants bitterly,
Because they did not come to the help of the LORD,
To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'

Song of the
War
Continued

The tribes of Israel among
the sheepfolds

The torrent of Kishon
swept them away

Meroz cursed bitterly

The Triumph of Jael

Judges 5:24-30

24 “Most blessed among women is Jael,
The wife of Heber the Kenite;
Blessed is she among women in tents.

25 He asked for water, she gave milk;
She brought out cream in a lordly bowl.

26 She stretched her hand to the tent peg,
Her right hand to the workmen’s hammer;
She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head,
She split and struck through his temple.

The Triumph of Jael

Judges 5:24-30 Continued

²⁷ At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still;
At her feet he sank, he fell;
Where he sank, there he fell dead.

²⁸ “The mother of Sisera looked through the
window,
And cried out through the lattice,
‘Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?’

²⁹ Her wisest ladies answered her,
Yes, she answered herself,

³⁰ ‘Are they not finding and dividing the spoil:
To every man a girl *or* two;
For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments,
Plunder of garments embroidered and dyed,
Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the
looter?’