

## Judges 4-5

*1 Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. 2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; and the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 And the sons of Israel cried to the LORD; for he had nine hundred iron chariots, and he oppressed the sons of Israel severely for twenty years.*

Temptation to backslide is there, especially when at ease. 80 year rest **3:31** & became complacent, took for granted God's grace. *Pr 27:7 A sated man loathes honey, But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.* Secure in prosperity can give way to sin. *Pr 1:32 "For the faithlessness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency/prosperity of fools will destroy them.*

When Ehud died they backslide-more committed to him than God. When Chuck died some backslid. Lord *sold them* when we forsake God He forsakes us, no protection, gives over to enemy for chastisement.

Pain, distress is a driving force; to God or world for temporary pain relief

*4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, "Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, 'Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun. 7 'And I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon; and I will give him into your hand.'" 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." 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman." Then Deborah arose & went with Barak to Kedesh*

Casual not formal atmosphere, people comfortable to talk for her to judge & deal w/ issues —family, neighbors, merchants & give divine decision.

With a divine command she calls Barak, get 10,000 men & go to battle & God will give victory. He's given specific battle plan & declares victory even

before the battle. All to encourage Barak faith but Barak insist Deborah go w/ him. Weak faith? Seems that way or thinking her presence assures God's presence-remember 20 years the nation has been w/o God's voice & in bondage to enemy. Maybe Barak didn't care about top billing & happy for honor go to Deborah as to him as long as God gave victory to people and He glorified.

Deborah agrees to go. Any leader who sends others on a mission that they are not willing to go on should is a questionable leader. Leaders should be first to serve, first to volunteer, first to sacrifice, first to give to ministry, first to set example. If not willing they are not a true leader or minister-servant. She tells him the world will know it a victory by a woman not Barak. Two women--Jael gives final victory, but Barak is good w/ that—He very timid & lacking faith or very secure in his manhood-no ego problems-not chauvinist

*9b Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went up with him; Deborah also went up with him. 11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from the Kenites, from the sons of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaananim, which is near Kedesh. 12 Then they told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. 13 And Sisera called together all his chariots, nine hundred iron chariots, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. 14 And Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has 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 even one was left.*

Sisera trusted in his 900 chariots—fastened scythes to axels to cut bodies in two-maximum fear for ground troops—but also cut the legs out from under horses. Double edged scythes. Deborah assures Barak of victory.

When the enemy is most threatening God's victory is close at hand. She speak as if the victory is won. Faith is the *Heb 11:1 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the evidence/conviction of things not yet seen,*

Barak went for safe place on mt Tabor & God's terror not the Barak's army routed, throw into confusion, break, crush, move noisily-fog?

Faith in word spoken to him thru Deborah brought to enemy's territory & God gave complete victory '*all the army fell*' When God starts to give victory we can't rest & think that's good enough but we need to be as Barak, diligent to utterly defeat the enemies of our soul remembering Saul, who was killed by an Amalekite because he didn't. God not partial but complete success—remembering not only our enemy but His.

*17 Now Sisera fled away 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 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. 19 And 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. 20 And 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 anyone here?' that you shall say, 'No.'" 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. 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 whom you are seeking." And he entered with her, and behold Sisera was lying dead with the tent peg in his temple. 23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the sons of Israel. 24 And the hand of the sons of Israel pressed heavier and heavier upon Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin the king of Canaan.*

To escape notice Sisera ran—found himself at the tent of Heber and his wife Jael. The Kenites were not Israelites so he felt no danger. From pride of iron chariots to fleeing on foot—God has a way of dealing w/ mans pride.

Instead of entertaining & looking out for the Sisera--enemy of Israel she drove a tent peg thru his skull. Need to cut off works of the flesh--Peter got in trouble when we began warming himself at the fires of the enemy & ended up denying Jesus. Come out from amongst them and be separate. Would Sisera have killed Jael to keep her quiet? *More comfortable w/ secular friends than Christians?* What fellowship has light w/ darkness?

Women set up tents so her expertise in setting tent pegs came in handy and used of Lord. Don't despise the days of small things. **Surfboards**

Sisera trusted in his iron chariots and perished by iron tent peg & by the hand of a woman which was a disgrace before men in that day. So Israel delivered out of the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, pressed heavier and heavier—A message to those fighting the fight of faith. It is not a cake walk or play ground but a battle ground to defeat the flesh and walk in the Spirit.

*1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: 2 "Israel's leaders took charge, and the people gladly followed. Praise the LORD! 3 "Listen, you kings! Pay attention, you mighty rulers! For I will sing to the LORD. I will make music to the LORD, the God of Israel. 4 "LORD, when you set out from Seir and marched across the fields of Edom, the earth trembled, and the cloudy skies poured down rain. 5 The mountains quaked in the presence of the LORD, the God of Mount Sinai— in the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel.*

*KJ willing offered themselves—Ps 110:3 Your people will volunteer, offer themselves, freely in the day of Thy power—*Spirit moving, God enthroned, Lord is in fact Lord and Master, ruler in lives.

Deborah a prophetess writes the song—Good worship songs come from the pen of those gifted w/ prophecy. They praise after victory—don't delay in thanksgiving or lost to time & good intentions what God deserves today. We forget and get busy. Note all glory, praise, honor and power given to

God not to man, Deborah, Barak, army although they instruments God used. Song not only encouragement for people and successive generations but heard by enemies who sought the ruin of Israel—a warning to them.

*6 “In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, and in the days of Jael, people avoided the main roads, and travelers stayed on winding pathways. 7 There were few people left in the villages of Israel—until Deborah arose as a mother for Israel. 8 When Israel chose new gods, war erupted at the city gates. Yet not a shield or spear could be seen among forty thousand warriors in Israel! 9 My heart is with the commanders of Israel, with those who volunteered for war. Praise the LORD! 10 “Consider this, you who ride on fine/white donkeys, you who sit on fancy saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road. 11 Listen to the village musicians gathered at the watering holes. They recount the righteous victories of the LORD and the victories of his villagers in Israel. Then the people of the LORD marched down to the city gates.*

Distress of Israel under Jabin—terrible times which magnifies God’s grace in deliverance. White unusual—it for kings, judges, princes set apart for privileged to ride—poor walk

No trade—no protection of businesses--lawlessness **Walmart-Macy’s-Target-Best Buy--\$95 Billion**. No magistrates to restrain & punish **no prosecuting under \$950** – Thieves and robbers rule--highways empty--because of criminals. No travel, avoiding main roads--Gates to go in and out not safe—enemies lurk at watering places. Reason? Left God for Idols which provoked true God.

In spite of the failure God raise up Deborah and Barak to deliver and bring victory

*12 “Wake up, Deborah, wake up! Wake up, wake up, and sing a song! Arise, Barak! Lead your captives away, son of Abinoam! 13 “Down from Tabor marched the few against the nobles. The people of the LORD marched down against mighty warriors. 14 They came down from Ephraim— a land that once belonged to the Amalekites; they followed you, Benjamin, with your troops. From Makir the commanders marched down; from Zebulun came those who carry a commander’s*

*staff. 15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah and Barak. They followed Barak, rushing into the valley. But in the tribe of Reuben there was great indecision.<sup>c</sup> 16 Why did you sit at home among the sheepfolds—to hear the shepherds whistle for their flocks? Yes, in the tribe of Reuben there was great indecision. 17 Gilead remained east of the Jordan. And why did Dan stay home? Asher sat unmoved at the seashore, remaining in his harbors. 18 But Zebulun risked his life, as did Naphtali, on the heights of the battlefield. 19 “The kings of Canaan came and fought, at Taanach near Megiddo’s springs, but they carried off no silver treasures. 20 The stars fought from heaven. The stars in their orbits fought against Sisera. 21 The Kishon River swept them away—that ancient torrent, the Kishon. March on with courage, my soul! 22 Then the horses’ hooves hammered the ground, the galloping, galloping of Sisera’s mighty steeds. 23 ‘Let the people of Meroz be cursed,’ said the angel of the LORD. ‘Let them be utterly cursed, because they did not come to help the LORD—to help the LORD against the mighty warriors.’*

We needed to be stirred up, awakened out of our slumber at times as Deborah is doing for herself. Intelligent people talk to themselves. Recounting the battle and deliverance God gave to the people. How the Lord brought victory by storms and floods—if can’t see iron chariots pile up on each other—**fog bank, cars pile up**

*24 “Most blessed among women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. May she be blessed above all women who live in tents. 25 Sisera asked for water, and she gave him milk. In a bowl fit for nobles, she brought him yogurt. 26 Then with her left hand she reached for a tent peg, and with her right hand for the workman’s hammer. She struck Sisera with the hammer, crushing his head. With a shattering blow, she pierced his temples. 27 He sank, he fell, he lay still at her feet. And where he sank, there he died. 28 “From the window Sisera’s mother looked out. Through the window she watched for his return, saying, ‘Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why don’t we hear the sound of chariot wheels?’ 29 “Her wise women answer, and she repeats these words to herself: 30 ‘They must be dividing the captured plunder—with a woman or two for every man. There will be colorful robes for Sisera, and colorful, embroidered robes for me. Yes, the plunder will include colorful robes embroidered on both sides.’ 31 “LORD, may all your enemies die like Sisera! But may those who love you rise like the sun in all its power!” Then there was peace in the land for forty years.*

Jael blessed and wise--Milk tryptophan—imagining a mother for her son—not matter how evil he might be—Yet justice served on enemies of God and His people.