

Judges 4-5, Deborah

Locate Hazor, Ramah, Bethel, and the Kishon River on a Bible map.

What does Deut. 20:1 tell us was a common fear of Israel as they faced their enemies?

Ch 4 Israel rescued from the Canaanites

v1-3 Israel's sin against, punishment from, and cry to the LORD.

- Sisera is the commander of the Canaanites army, ruled by Jabin

* What was the strength of Moab's army?

v4-5 Deborah, a prophetess and judge.

- There are other female prophetesses in the Bible (Ex. 15:20; 2 Kg. 22:14; Lk. 2:36; Acts 21:9). Deborah is the only female judge.

v6-10 Deborah reminds Barak of God's word, and his weak faith is thus strengthened.

What does verse 8 tell us about Barak?

What does verse 9 tell us about Deborah?

v11 the Kenites were living among Judah (Judg 1:16) but Heber had left them and lived in the same area of Barak (among the tribe of Naphtali, v6)

v12-13 Sisera plans to fight Israel.

v14-16 Deborah's encouraging words strengthen Barak for the fight and victory.

v17-22 Sisera flees to Jael's tent (wife of Heber), who puts a tent peg through Sisera's temple

v23-24 *God subdued Jabin*; Israel grows strong.

Ch 5 Deborah & Barak's Song

v2-3 *I will sing to the Lord*

- *when leaders lead* (Barak failed at first)

v4-9 No one can withstand God or those who willingly serve Him

v10-11 *Speak, recount* = do not let this be forgotten

v12 Deborah & Barak speak and act

v13-18 Many did their part, working together: the survivors, the LORD, Ephraimites, Benjaminites, Machir, Zebulunites, Issacharites, Barak, Reubenites, Zebulunites, Naphtalites.

- v16-17 some did not come to help: some in Reuben, Gilead, Dan, Asher

v19-22 The enemy attacked

v23 Meroz did nothing, making them guilty

v24-27 The courage of Jael

v28-30 Sisera's people assume victory

v31 Peace for those who serve God---which lasted forty years

* 4:23 says "God subdued Jabin." From chapter 5, list those who are given credit for subduing Jabin. Then explain how both these and God can be responsible for subduing Jabin.

* Around three hundred years later, Israel asks to be led by a king "like all the nations" (1 Sam. 8:5). At this point in Judges, in what ways are we already seeing Israel imitating their neighbors?

Application Question What lessons do we learn about leaders from these chapters?