

Judges 4-5 New King James Version (NKJV) -- Deborah

When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So, the LORD sold them into the hand of the king of Canaan who ruled over them for 20 years. And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for this cruel king had nine hundred chariots of iron, and his commander's name was Sisera.

Now Deborah, the judge of Israel at that time, would sit under a palm tree, and the children of Israel came to her with their problems and sought her judgment. One day she sent for Barak, and said to him, "The LORD God of Israel has commanded, 'Go and take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor. I will deploy Sisera with his chariots and his multitude of men; and I will deliver him into your hand.'"

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!"

So, she said, "I will surely go with you; but there won't be any glory for you in the journey, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak.

When Sisera heard that Barak and his men were at Mount Tabor, he gathered his army and headed toward the Mount too. (*tabor – accent first syllable*)

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. And the LORD confused Sisera and his army causing them to run; so Sisera jumped from his chariot and fled away on foot. But Barak pursued them until every man fell by the edge of the sword.

Now, Sisera had fled away on foot and he came to the tent of Jael, whose husband was in alliance with the king of Canaan. Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, “Turn aside, my lord, turn aside and come hide in my tent; do not fear.” And he turned aside and went with her into the tent where she covered him with a rug.

Then he said to her, “Give me a water to drink, for I am thirsty.” But Jael opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink. 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.’”

Soon Sisera fell into a deep sleep and Jael took a tent peg and a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him. She drove the peg into his temple, until the peg went down into the ground and so Sisera died. 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.

So, on that day God subdued the king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against the king until they defeated him and lived in peace for forty years.