

~BARAK (289)
(Ba'arak) [Lightning]

- Son of Abinoam of Kedesh in the territory of Naphtali. During an early period in the time of the judges the Israelites fell away from true worship, and so for 20 years God permitted them to be oppressed by Jabin, the king of Canaan. They cried out to Yehowah for relief, and it was then that **Barak** became their God-appointed leader.
- Then the sons of Israel again began to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes now that Ehud was dead. (**Judges 4:1**)
- So Yehowah sold them into the hand of Jabin the king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor, and the chief of his army was Sisera, and he was dwelling in Harosheth of the nations. (**Judges 4:2**)
- And the sons of Israel began to cry out to Yehowah, because he had nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and he himself oppressed the sons of Israel with harshness twenty years. (**Judges 4:3**)
- Whereas the Israelites Canaanite oppressors were heavily armed, a shield could not be seen, nor a lance, among forty thousand in Israel.
- They proceeded to choose new gods. It was then there was war in the gates. A shield could not be seen, nor a lance, among forty thousand in Israel. (**Judges 5:8**)
- However, in **Barak's** day, Yehowah gave Israel victory over their foes, a triumph that was not forgotten.
- Do to them as to Midian, as to Sisera, as to Jabin at the torrent valley of Kishon. (**Psalms 83:9**)
- The two accounts of these matters in (**Judges Chapter 4**), and in the exultant song of Deborah and Barak in (**Judges Chapter 5**) complement each other and paint a vivid picture of what occurred at that time.
- The prophetess Deborah, who was then judging Israel, spurs **Barak** to take the initiative in freeing his people. **Barak** consents, but

on the condition that Deborah accompany him. She agrees, though telling **Barak** that Yehowah will sell Sisera, chief of Jabin's forces, into the hand of a woman.

- Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that particular time. (**Judges 4:4**)
- And she was dwelling under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel would go up to her for judgment. (**Judges 4:5**)
- And she proceeded to send and call **Barak** the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali and to say to him; Has not Yehowah the God of Israel given the command? Go and you must spread yourself out on Mount Tabor, and you must take with you ten thousand men out of the sons of Naphtali and out of the sons of Zebulun. (**Judges 4:6**)
- And I shall certainly draw to you at the torrent valley of Kishon Sisera the chief of Jabin's army and his war chariots and his crowd, and I shall indeed give him into your hand. (**Judges 4:7**)
- At this **Barak** said to her; If you will go with me, I also shall certainly go, but if you will not go with me, I shall not go. (**Judges 4:8**)
- To this she said; Without fail I shall go with you. Just the same, the beautifying thing will not become yours on the way that you are going, for it will be into the hand of a woman that Yehowah will sell Sisera. With that Deborah got up and went with **Barak** to Kedesh. (**Judges 4:9**)
- **Barak** recruits 10,000 men from Naphtali, Zebulun, and other tribes of Israel
- And she proceeded to send and call Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali and to say to him; Has not Yehowah the God of Israel given the command? Go and you must spread yourself out on Mount Tabor, and you must take with you ten thousand men out of the sons of Naphtali and out of the sons of Zebulun. (**Judges 4:6**)
- My heart is for the commanders of Israel, who were volunteers among the people. Bless Yehowah. (**Judges 5:9**)

- You riders on yellowish-red she-asses, you who sit on rich carpets, and you who walk on the road, consider! (**Judges 5:10**)
- Some of the voices of the water distributors among the places of drawing water. There they began to recount the righteous acts of Yehowah, the righteous acts of his dwellers in open country in Israel. It was then Yehowah's people made their way down to the gates. (**Judges 5:11**)
- Awake, awake, O Deborah, Awake, awake, utter a song! Rise up, **Barak**, and lead your captives away, you son of Abinoam! (**Judges 5:12**)
- It was then the survivors came down to the majestic ones, Yehowah's people came down to me against the mighty ones. (**Judges 5:13**)
- Out of Ephraim was their origin in the low plain, with you, O Benjamin, among your peoples. Out of Machir the commanders went down, and out of Zebulun those handling the equipment of a scribe. (**Judges 5:14**)
- And the princes in Issachar were with Deborah, and as Issachar, so was **Barak**. Into the low plain he was sent on foot. Among the divisions of Reuben great were the searchings of the heart. (**Judges 5:15**)
- Why did you sit down between the two saddlebags, to listen to the pipings for the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of the heart. (**Judges 5:16**)
- Gilead kept to his residence on the other side of the Jordan, And Dan, why did he continue to dwell for the time in ships? Asher sat idle at the seashore, and by his landing places he kept residing. (**Judges 5:17**)
- Zebulun was a people that scorned their souls to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the field. (**Judges 5:18**)
- And ascends Mount Tabor. Hearing of this, Sisera and his forces, equipped with 900 chariots having iron scythes, advance toward the Israelites along the dry bed of the Kishon, in the Plain of Jezreel. With **Barak** in the lead, the Israelite army, being only lightly equipped,

courageously descends from Mount Tabor, ready for the fray with the fully armored Canaanites.

- **However, the Kishon became an overwhelming torrent, immobilizing the enemy chariots. Indeed, from heaven did the stars fight, from their orbits they fought against Sisera. The torrent of Kishon washed them away. Barak and his men press their advantage, and the account states; All the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained.**

- **From heaven did the stars fight, from their orbits they fought against Sisera. (Judges 5:20)**

- **The torrent of Kishon washed them away, the torrent of ancient days, the torrent of Kishon. You went treading down strength, O my soul. (Judges 5:21)**

- **It was then that the hoofs of horses pawed because of dashings upon dashings of his stallions. (Judges 5:22)**

- **And Barak began to call Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went on up following his steps, and Deborah went on up with him. (Judges 4:10)**

- **Incidentally Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the sons of Hobab, whose son-in-law Moses was, and he had his tent pitched near the big tree in Zaanannim, which is at Kedesh. (Judges 4:11)**

- **Then they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. (Judges 4:12)**

- **At once Sisera called together all his war chariots, the nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and all the people that were with him, out of Harosheth of the nations to the torrent valley of Kishon. (Judges 4:13)**

- **Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (Judges 4:14)**

- **And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and**

all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before **Barak**. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight on foot. (**Judges 4:15**)

- And **Barak** chased after the war chariots and the camp as far as Harosheth of the nations, so that all the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained. (**Judges 4:16**)
- Sisera himself, having abandoned his chariot and his beleaguered army, flees and finds refuge in the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, a Kenite who is at peace with Jabin. Jael extends hospitality to Sisera, but while he sleeps, she kills him by driving a tent pin through his temples and into the earth. When **Barak** comes along, Jael invites him into the tent, where he sees that Yehowah's word has come true, Sisera has actually been sold into the hand of a woman.
- As for Sisera, he fled 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 household of Heber the Kenite. (**Judges 4:17**)
- Then Jael came on out to meet Sisera and said to him; Turn this way, my lord, turn this way to me. Do not be afraid. So he turned aside to her into the tent. Later she covered him with a blanket. (**Judges 4:18**)
- In time he said to her; Give me, please, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty. Accordingly she opened a skin bottle of milk and gave him a drink, after which she covered him. (**Judges 4:19**)
- And he went on to say to her; Stand at the entrance of the tent, and it must occur that if anybody comes and does ask you and says, Is there a man here? You must then say; No! (**Judges 4:20**)
- And Jael the wife of Heber proceeded to take a pin of the tent and to put the hammer into her hand. Then she went to him stealthily and drove the pin into his temples and beat it into the earth, while he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. (**Judges 4:21**)
- And, look! There was **Barak** pursuing Sisera. Jael now came on out to meet him and said to him; Come and I shall show you the man you are looking for. So in he went to her, and, look! There was Sisera fallen dead, with the pin in his temples. (**Judges 4:22**)

- Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite will be most blessed among women, among women in the tent she will be most blessed. (**Judges 5:24**)
- Water he asked, milk she gave; In the large banquet bowl of majestic one's she presented curdled milk. (**Judges 5:25**)
- Her hand to the tent pin she then thrust out, and her right hand to the mallet of hard workers. And she hammered Sisera, she pierced his head through, and she broke apart and cut up his temples. (**Judges 5:26**)
- Between her feet he collapsed, he fell, he lay down, Between her feet he collapsed, he fell; Where he collapsed, there he fell overcome. (**Judges 5:27**)
- Thereafter, the hand of the victorious Israelites went on getting harder and harder against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had cut off Jabin. Consequently, that area of Israel had no further disturbance for forty years.
- Thus God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the sons of Israel on that day. (**Judges 4:23**)
- And the hand of the sons of Israel went on getting harder and harder against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had cut off Jabin the king of Canaan. (**Judges 4:24**)
- Thus let all your enemies perish, O Yehowah, and let your lovers be as when the sun goes forth in its mightiness. And the land had no further disturbance for forty years. (**Judges 5:31**)
- **Barak** is cited as a faithful example among those who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, became valiant in war, routed the armies of foreigners.
- And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gideon, **Barak**, Samson, Jephthah, David as well as Samuel and the other prophets. (**Hebrews 11:32**)
- Who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. (**Hebrews 11:33**)

- Stayed the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became valiant in war, routed the armies of foreigners. (**Hebrews 11:34**)
- **Barak** may be the **Bedan** of [if LXX and Sy are followed].
- And Yehowah proceeded to send Jerubbaal and **Bedan** and Jephthah and Samuel and deliver you out of the hand of your enemies all around, that you might dwell in security. (**1 Samuel 12:11**)

See Also BEDAN 1