

Deborah and Barak

1 The sons of Israel continued to do evil before the Lord, and Ehud was dead, 2 so 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 of the Gentiles. 3 And the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord; for Jabin had nine hundred iron chariots with him, and for twenty years he oppressed Israel with his power. 4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judge of Israel at that time. 5 And Deborah would sit under the palm tree between Ramah and Bethel on Mount Ephraim. And the sons of Israel came up to her for justice. 6 Then Deborah sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, ‘Go to Mount Tabor and take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun. 7 and I will bring to you, at the brook of Kishon, the captain of the army of Jabin, with his chariots and his multitude, and I will deliver them into your hands?’” 8 And Barak said to her, “If you go with me, then I will go; but if you do not go with me, I will remain here, for I am unable to discern the day when the Angel of the Lord will help me.” 9 She said, “Certainly I will go with you; but know this: there will be no honor gained by you on the journey you are undertaking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak from Kedesh. 10 Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali from Kedesh, and went from there with ten thousand men following him. Deborah went up with him. 11 Now Heber the Kenite, of the sons of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses, moved away from the Kenites and pitched his tent upon arriving at the oak tree of coveting, which is near Kedesh. 12 And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. 13 So Sisera called all his chariots, nine hundred iron chariots, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles to the brook of Kishon. 14 Then Deborah said to Barak, “Rise up. For this is the day the Lord will deliver Sisera into your hand, because 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 got down from his chariot and fled on foot. 16 But Barak pursued the chariots behind the camp as far as Harosheth of the Gentiles, and the whole camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left. 17 But Sisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, his friend; 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, entering into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. 19 Then Sisera 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 Sisera said to her, “Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes to you and inquires of you, and says, ‘Is there a man here?’ you shall say, ‘There is not.’” 21 Then Jael, Heber’s wife, took a tent peg and a hammer in her hand, and went quietly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground. He was asleep, lost consciousness, and 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 in with her, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple. 23 So on that day God routed Jabin king of Canaan before the sons of Israel. 24 And the hand of the sons of Israel proceeded and hardened against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had utterly destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

Judges 5

The Song of Deborah and Barak

1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying, 2 A revelation was made known in Israel To the people who were willing, bless the Lord! 3 O kings, receive the news! O princesses, listen closely! I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will sing a psalm to the Lord God of Israel. 4 Lord, when You went out in Seir, When You left from the field of Edom, The earth trembled and the heavens poured dew, The clouds poured water; 5 The mountains were shaken before the Lord Eloi, This Sinai, before the Lord God of Israel. 6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, They deserted the main road and traveled the byways, Corrupting the way as they went. 7 The mighty of Israel failed, they came to an end; Until Deborah, whom He raised; Until a mother whom He raised in Israel. 8 They chose new gods; Then the cities of the rulers waged war; Not a shield or a spear was seen Among the forty thousand in Israel. 9 My heart is with the leaders of Israel; To those among the people who freely sacrifice, bless the Lord! 10 You who mount upon a female donkey at midday, Sitting on the seat of judgment, Who conduct your life on the road, mediating along the way, 11 Turn back and shout out every detail While drawing up water; There, in that place, what is rightful to the Lord is given, Spreading righteousness in Israel. Then the people of the Lord came down to the cities. 12 Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, O son of Abinoam, And lead your host of captives captive! 13 Then the remnant came down to the mighty; The people of the Lord came down to him, to the mighty. 14 My Ephraim rooted them out in Amalek; O Benjamin, your people were behind you. Machir came to know more about Me, And from Zebulun, those able to record with the pen of a scribe. 15 And the princes in Issachar were with Deborah and Barak, So she sent Barak into the valley by foot. Among the regions of Reuben There were great resolves of heart. 16 Why go up to sit in the midst of the sheepfold, To hear the trumpet of the angels? In the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart. 17 Gilead is beyond the Jordan, where he made his dwelling; Why did Dan remain on the ships? Asher sat down on the seashore, And he will dwell at his seaports. 18 The people of Zebulun reproached its soul unto death, And Naphtali denounced the high places of the fields. 19 Kings set themselves in battle array; Then the kings of Canaan waged war in Taanach, By the waters of Megiddo; They took no gift of silver. 20 The stars of the heavens were arrayed for battle; On their path they arrayed themselves to war against Sisera. 21 The brook of Kishon swept them away, That ancient brook, the brook of Kishon; My mighty soul will trample him down. 22 When the hooves of the horses were fettered, In earnest his mighty ones hastened. 23 Curse Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse them, Cursed is every one who dwells there, Because they did not come to the help of the Lord, To the help of the Lord against the mighty. 24 Jael is blessed among women, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she from among the women in tents. 25 He requested water, she gave him milk in a dish; Surpassing this, she offered butter. 26 She stretched her left hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She drove the nail through his head with a hammer; She put the nail into his temple. 27 He rolled down between her feet; He fell and lay between her feet; He bent over and fell; When he sat down there, he fell, departing life. 28 The mother of Sisera peered out through the archer's window; For his chariot is not where it should be, For the feet of his chariot's horses tarry. 29 The wise of her leading ladies answered her, And she answered to herself, 30 Will they not find him dividing the spoil; The merciful having compassion for the head of a man; Spoils of the dyed garments for Sisera; The spoils of dyed embroidery, Embroiderer's dyes as spoils for his neck? 31 O Lord, let all Your enemies perish in the way; And those desiring Him, be as the coming out of His sun in power. And let the land be at peace for forty years.