

Judges 4

King James Version (KJV)

4 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead. (did evil– in Hebrew the manuscripts is – they did THE evil = idolatry. They worshipped the idol gods of the Canaanites. Once again, they abandoned God after their troubles had ended)

²And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles. (Jabin is thought to be a title, not a name. In Joshua-11, Joshua also defeated a Jabin, over 100 years earlier)

(The Canaanites had rebuilt their cities because Israel did not completely wipe them out, as God had commanded them. Disobey God and pay the price)

³And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel. (They had abandoned God, so He left them)
(Chariots of iron had 2 foot long knife blades attached to the wheels. They would spin with the wheels. This was used to kill footmen of the enemy army)

⁴And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. (Fourth judge; she was a prophetess as well as a judge. God spoke to her) (Deborah = a bee <Hebrew>)

⁵And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. See Genesis-35:8-on (Rebecca had a nurse named Deborah. It is thought that she was buried under that palm tree, so the name)

⁶And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? (God no doubt gave Deborah the plan of attack. She was a prophetess)

⁷And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him

into thine hand. (God chose the place for the battle. There is a good reason for this) (Kishon = hard ground <in the Hebrew>)

⁸ And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. (Barak was afraid of the enemy) (Barak = a flashing sword)

⁹ And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. (Deborah is prophesying - the woman in the prophecy is not Deborah. Jael will kill Sisera – God will use the weak to destroy the strong)

¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh. (This verse is terribly inaccurate - Heber had lived in the land of Kenites. He was not a Kenite)

(Hobab, the son of Jethro, was the brother-in-law of Moses. They were all Medianites who lived in the land of Kenites. Medianites were the descendants of Medan – the son of Abraham by his second wife Keturah. If Heber had been a Kenite by heritage, he could not have severed himself from them. He simply moved out of their land, and lived in the Promised Land with Israel. He is Jael's husband)

¹² And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. (Sisera had spies keeping an eye on Israel – a good military tactic. Israel led Sisera where they wanted him)

¹³ And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon. (Kishon = hard ground) (Chariots of iron – chariots that had 24 inch sharp blades attached to the wheels. They would drive through infantry men and cut them to pieces)

(Sisera chose this place because chariots are heavy and need solid ground to maneuver on. God chose this place because He intends to turn the tables against Sisera)

¹⁴ And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

¹⁵ And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. (Discomfited = destroyed by supernatural power. God can control nature. HE turned the hard ground into mud by flooding the river. Sisera's chariots sank into the mud and were stuck hard, as were his footmen. It is documented in Chapter-5) (Sisera is running for his life)

¹⁶ But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left. (Chariots can also be translated teams <of horses>. After the chariots were stuck in the mud, they probably unhitched the horses so they could get away on them. Apparently the horses couldn't get unstuck either)

¹⁷ Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet 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. (Not Kenites by race, only by habitation. They were Medianites.) (Sisera thought this would be a safe place to rest. To enter a woman's tent, when the husband was absent was also punishable by death at this time)

¹⁸ And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle. (Jael was the wife of Heber. She was also a Medianite) (Mantle = A heavy blanket or a rug)

¹⁹ And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him. (The warm milk would help him fall asleep)

²⁰ Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No. (Sisera knows that they are looking for him)

²¹ Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and

weary. So he died. (The women were in charge of putting the tents up and taking them down when the family would move on to better pastures. Jael drove the tent peg through Sisera's temples while he slept)

²² And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples. **1Corinthians-1:27**

²³ So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. (He used Deborah and Jael to do it)

²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan. (Will Israel learn their lesson and remain loyal to God? No. They will fall away from God, back to idolatry again)