

May 13, 2001

Mother's Day, 2001

Judges 4:17-24

After Ehud, who was a judge in Israel, died, the children of Israel did evil, so the Lord placed them under the oppression of Jabin, king of Canaan. Sisera was the captain of his army. The army was a strong army, and Jabin oppressed them for 20 years.

V. 3, says the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of the army. He had chariots of iron, which could do tremendous devastation in an army of foot soldiers, as Israel had.

Notice it says that it was the presence of the foreign army in the land that called them to repentance.

Deborah was a prophetess. This shows that the time this took place, Israel was in great apostasy (**rejected your religious beliefs**), for a woman was speaking for the Lord. Isaiah 3:12 tells us that God raises up women to do His work when He cannot get men. Women in places of leadership is a sign of God's judgment upon a land.

Deborah sent word to Barak, telling him that it was the Lord's will that he gather Israel together to fight for their freedom from Jabin. Barak agreed to go to war against the Sisera and the 900 war chariots, but he refused to go unless Deborah went with him.

Deborah agreed to go, but told Barak that since he would not go without a woman with him, the victory over Sisera would not be credited to him. Barak wanted her to go with him anyway, and Deborah went.

Barak gathered 10,000 Israelites against Sisera and his 900 war chariots.

V. 15, the Lord fought against Sisera, and his war chariots did him no good.

Proverbs 21:31 *The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.*

Chapter 5:20, 21 imply that the Lord used the weather to turn the war chariots into useless pieces of junk.

Their chariots useless, the army had to fight without them, and Israel's army wiped out Sisera's army.

Sisera had to get down from his chariot and flee on foot with Barak in hot pursuit.

Sisera fled to the tent of Jael, who was the wife of Heber, a Kenite.

V. 11, the Kenites were descendants of Moses' father-in-law, who joined with Israel while Israel was in the wilderness. The Kenites were a peaceful people, and they avoided military affairs as much as possible.

V. 17, Sisera assumed that Heber and his wife, Jael, were also at peace with Jabin, the king of Canaan. But for some reason, Heber had separated from the Kenites.

Vv. 17-23

Jael invited Sisera into her tent, and she delivered Sisera into Barak's hands.

This single action by Jael was a key in setting the nation free from oppressive domination.

We are talking today about something special you can remember about your mother. It may be only one thing, but it stands out in your mind.

Here we have a lady, no doubt a mother, who did only one deed, and that one deed delivered the nation.

It is important to remember that Israel had degenerated into a very bad state of apostasy, so Jael's stand for the Lord God of Israel was not a popular stand. And the stand she took in the midst of compromise is recorded for us to see throughout eternity in God's Word.

Note some things about this woman:

She had a home that made others welcome. Her home was restful and peaceful, where Sisera could feel at home. This man could lay down in peaceful sleep, even while those seeking his life were pursuing him.

She had a soothing voice, one that inspired confidence.

She was not taken in by the power nor reputation of this man, Sisera.

She had God's courage to stand for right in the midst of a compromised world.

She stepped outside her comfort zone to remove one of God's enemies. She could have told Sisera no; she could have let him sleep and let Barak go on. But she chose to leave her zone of safety and comfort and take this stand against the enemies of God's people.

V. 21, she had no malice nor revenge, but her concern was for the glory of God

V. 22, she knew full well what she was doing, and whose side she had chosen. The line was drawn in the sand for her, and she crossed over to be on the Lord's side.

***1 Kings 18:21** And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

Mothers are the key in promoting the Kingdom of God as they take their stand against the vain philosophies of this world, and train their children according to the word of God.

She recognized the enemy to her, her home and to her nation.

She was wise as a serpent in the way she invited this man into her home.

She bided her time, and at the right time, she took her stand.

This wife and mother was a stay-at-home mom, yet God gave her the victory over Sisera.

Women are told today that they are not important unless they have a career and are independent. But that is a lie of the devil.

The most important thing a woman can do is provide a godly home in the midst of a pagan society, where others are at ease and secure, yet the enemies of God are recognized and dealt with.