

## Who Is My King? – We're in this Together!

### Judges 4:1-24

#### Recap of Story –

##### Main Characters:

###### Jabin (v.2)

- king of Canaan,
- Reigned in Hazor (the biggest city in Canaan)

###### Sisera (v.2)

- the commander of Jabin's army,
- based in Harosheth Haggoyim (workmanship of the Gentiles).

###### Deborah (v.4)

- meaning – “bee”
- a prophet,
- a wife,
- a judge

###### Barak (v. 6-7)

- “meaning – “lightning”
- son of Abinoam
- lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali
- callout 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor
- God will give victory to Barak over Sisera, commander of Jabin's army along with Sisera's 900 chariots fitted with iron

###### Jael (v. 17-22)

- Good friends with Jabin

Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. God sold them to Jabin King of Canaan. Sisera has an army with 900 iron chariots. Deborah called Barak to bring 10,000 soldiers to Mount Tabor. She will get Sisera there. Barak said only if Deborah will be there. Otherwise, he will not go. Deborah agreed but she said since Barak said that, Sisera will be handed to a woman. While Barak and his men were at Mount Tabor, Deborah told Barak to go down the hill to attack. Only Sisera escaped. Sisera arrived at the tent of Jael. Jael's husband made a peace treaty with Jabin King of Canaan. Jael invited Sisera in her tent and hid him under a blanket. As Sisera fell into a deep sleep due to exhaustion, Jael went into with a tent peg and a hammer. She drilled that peg into Sisera's temple and Sisera died. Barak came and found out Sisera is dead. On that

day, Jabin king of Canaan is subjected to the Israelites. The Israelites continued to pursue Jabin until he was destroyed.

Main points-

1. Co-judges

- Deborah, Barak, and Jael
- We are in this together
- Their purpose is to deliver Israel
- What's our purpose? Our theme of this year is "You matter to God, You matter to us."
- Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love others as yourself.
- Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them the teachings of Jesus. Matthew 28:19
- Ie. To love God and to make God look great.
- To be in a deep relationship with God

2. God is the real Judge/real Deliver

- God was the one who gave Deborah instructions, moved Barak to follow and stirred Jael to obey.
- Jesus said all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18
- We (including God) are in this together.
- God is on our side. He will never leave us. Matthew 28:20
- He calls us to stay with him. <sup>20</sup>"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.... <sup>25</sup>"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."" John 17:20-21; 25-26.
- God called us into victory even the situation seems like a disadvantage.
- Barak and his army were on the mountain. For their enemy to come up the mountain, their enemy will be at a disadvantage because Barak and his men can throw rocks at them. However, God called Barak to leave the mountain and move to the plain where iron chariots have the advantage. God knew what he was doing, Barak obeyed and had victory. We will learn that from Judges 5, God sent a flash flood to the chariots. The chariots couldn't move. That's a major reason contributing to Barak's victory.
- God is the ultimate Deliver.

3. It takes the Holy Spirit and a bunch of "Yes" to have victory

- If only any one of them, Deborah, Barak and Jael, said no to God, the Israelites won have victory.
- We (including God) are in this together.
- If we listen to the Holy Spirit, obey and follow God's guidance even according to the world standard, we may be in a disadvantage, God will use us to bring victory and freedom to worship Him.