

an
Ancient Duet

Judges 5:1-2



Judges 5:1 Then Deborah and Barak
the son of Abinoam sang on that day,
saying,²“When leaders lead in Israel,
when the people willingly offer them-
selves, bless the LORD!”

Hebrews 11:32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak and of Samson and of Jephtha; of David also and Samuel and of the prophets.

The Characters

Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.⁵ And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

The Characters

Judges 4:6 Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;⁷ and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand.’”

The Characters

Judges 4:1 When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.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 Hagoyim.³ And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel.

The Circumstances

Judges 5:6 “In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were deserted and the travelers walked along the byways.⁷ Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, until I Deborah, arose; arose a mother in Israel. They chose new gods; then there was war in the gates; not a shield of spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.”

The Circumstances

Judges 4:8 And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!”⁹ So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.

The Chronology

Judges 4:14 Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD 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 alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.¹⁶ But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

The Chronology

Judges 5:4 “LORD, when You went out from Seir, when You marched from the field of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens poured, the clouds also poured water;⁵ the mountains gushed before the LORD, this Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.”

The Chronology

Judges 5:19 “The kings came and fought, then the kings of Canaan fought in Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they took no spoils of silver.²⁰ They fought from the heavens; the stars from their courses fought against Sisera.²¹ The torrent of Kishon swept them away, that ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength!²² Then the horses’ hooves pounded, the galloping, galloping of his steeds.”