

## Judges, Sermon #15

Judges 4 & 5 – story and a song – Deborah and Barak

Judges 4:6-9 – Let us stand for the reading of God's Word

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Mount Tabor

A dome shaped mound – see in every direction

Because of its shape and its location, it was fortified and walled oftentimes

Located at the northeast section of the Valley of Jezreel

Look at your map section.

Three tribes gather here. Mount Tabor has a view.

Jezreel Valley – all the way to the coast is fertile. Feed all of the Middle East.

Valley of Armageddon – Megiddo – Revelations 16:16

Few places on earth can match the battle of this area – 34

British General Allenby fought here in WWI in 1918

Napoleon fought here. He called it the most natural battleground of the whole earth.

Napoleon defeated the Turks in 1799 because of the flooded Kishon River.

This area is a perfect battlefield.

It is a flat plain fourteen miles wide by twenty miles in length.

The most famous battle the world will ever know will be fought here someday.

It will be the Mother of All Battles.

Judges 4:6-7

Some doubt their abilities, some doubt their security in the Lord, some even doubt the Lord sometimes.

Doubt has a shackling effect on a person.

It can freeze a person into inactivity and indecisiveness.

★ Many people make the mistake of believing their doubts, and doubting their beliefs.

What we should do is believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts.

If we will feed our faith, our doubts will starve to death.

## **V. Deborah called on Barak**

To assemble the military and to lead it – to get busy – he was not doing his job.

It is a sad day when people have to call on us to do what's right. Parents, Wife

Deborah is calling on Barak!

Barak had hesitated when God told him

We need to obey God – in spite of circumstances, feelings, consequences, finances

Barak was facing a strong enemy.

When things seem impossible—smile – praise God – 900 chariots

Be faithful to God – things are overwhelming, impossible – be faithful.

God is at work

God has a plan – draw them into the plain. Chariots – they will destroy us

God's plans – not our plans.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.”*

(Isaiah 55:8). *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* Vs. 9

His thoughts are not our thoughts

Psalms 20:7, *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”*

That's why – preaching and teaching of the Word of God

Reading the Bible

Prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit

Must dominate and reign in the life and mind of the believer – so that we do not doubt or waiver.

Now, what is God's plan?

How is God going to win a battle when none have any weapons?

5:4-21, torrential rain (thunderstorm) in the dry season (Judges 4:7, 14, 15)

This is the plan

### **Vs. 8**

**VI. Barak** – the resistant, reluctant judge. He is not alone in the Bible in his resistance to do what God said.

Exodus 4:10

Moses – Exodus 4:13 – burning bush

Gideon – Judges 6:15

Jeremiah – Jeremiah 1:6 – “I am a child”, also verses 7 & 8

Any and every person needs to understand their own inadequacies!

II Corinthians 3:5 – *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God.”*

The courage of Deborah stands as a dynamic example for us, for all women and all men everywhere.

Trying to mobilize an unarmed or defenseless army of men to face a massive army with the latest military equipment and technology

Trying to push a man who is failing

If there ever was a general who was a sissy, it was Barak.

He should have been out in the thick of the battle, but here he is hiding behind woman's skirt, vs. 8.

Barak will not go into battle unless Deborah goes along.

If this prophetess went with him, he felt he would be successful in battle, vs. 9.

Deborah promised to go with Barak but told him that a woman would be the heroine of the battle.

She agreed to accompany the reluctant commander Barak.

But she informed him that the honor of the victory would go to a woman and not to him.

Next time we will meet this woman and it's not Deborah.

Let us stand for closing invitation.