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Deborah and Barak

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus - **June 4, 2017**

Judges 4:1-10

Introduction: This chapter demonstrates how **Israel AGAIN sinned** and were **delivered** INTO the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan, by whom they were oppressed for twenty years. Excavations at Hazor have resulted in evidence of a Jabin who was king there, although NOT necessarily this one. Jabin appears to have been a throne name. The chapter goes on to show that **Deborah and Barak consulted together** about their **deliverance**, and that Barak, encouraged by Deborah, gathered some forces from the tribal confederacy and fought **Sisera** the captain of Jabin's army, whom he met, and over whom he obtained victory. Sisera, while fleeing on foot to the tent of **Jael**, the wife of Heber, was received into it, and **slain by her while asleep in it**, which issued in a **complete deliverance** of the children of Israel. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/pet/judges-4.html>)

Judges 2:1-2, And an **angel** of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, **I will NEVER break my covenant with you**. And ye shall make **no league** with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have NOT obeyed my voice: **WHY** have ye done this?

Judges 2:7-8, 10, And the people **SERVED** the LORD (Yahweh) all the days of **Joshua**, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who **had SEEN ALL the great works** of the LORD, that he did FOR Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

...And also **ALL that generation** were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose **another generation** after them, which **knew NOT** the LORD (Yahweh), nor YET the **WORKS** which he **had DONE** for Israel.

Thought 1. This means the FEAR of the Lord before the others was NOT before THEM.

Psalm 36:1, The **transgression** of the **WICKED** saith within my heart, that there is **NO FEAR (dread** [reverential FEAR, AWE]) of God BEFORE his eyes.

Judges 2:16 ...the Lord (Yahweh) **raised up (SET UP) JUDGES**, which **delivered** them out of the hand of those that **spoiled (ROB)** them.

JUDGES, In the history of Israel, a chief MAGISTRATE, with civil and military powers. The Israelites were governed by judges more than three hundred years, and the history of their transactions is called the book of Judges. Magistrate, the principal (HIGHEST in rank) director.] A public civil officer, invested with the executive government of some branch of it. In this sense, a king is the highest or FIRST magistrate as is the **President** of the United States

Judges 4:1-2, And the children of Israel **AGAIN** did **EVIL** in the **sight** of the Lord (Yahweh), when Ehud was dead. And the Lord (Yahweh) **sold (surrender)** them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the **captain (general)** of whose **host (army)** was **Sisera**, which dwelt in **Harosheth** of the Gentiles.

NOTE: The name Harosheth signifies workmanship, cutting and carving, whether in stone or wood Exodus 31:5, and hence, might be applied to the place where such works are carried on. It has been conjectured (guessed) that this being a great timber district, rich in cedars and fir-trees, and near Great Zidon Joshua 11:8. Jabin kept a large number of **oppressed Israelites** at work in **hewing wood**, and preparing it at Harosheth for transport to Zidon; and that these woodcutters, **armed** with axes and hatchets, formed the soldiers of Barak's army.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/judges-4.html>)

Judges 4:3, And 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.

NOTE: Oppressed - The same word is used Exodus 3:9 of the oppression of Israel by the Egyptians. If they were put to task-work in hewing timber, their condition was very like that of their ancestors making BRICKS.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/judges-4.html>)

2 Chronicles 6:24-25, And **IF** thy people Israel be put to the **worse** BEFORE the ENEMY, because **they** have **sinned against thee**; and shall **return** and **confess** thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house; Then HEAR thou from the heavens, and **FORGIVE the sin** of thy people Israel...

2 Chronicles 7:12, 14, And the LORD **appeared** to **Solomon** by NIGHT, and said unto him, I have **HEARD** thy **prayer (supplication [earnest request])**, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

...If **MY people**, which are called by my name, shall **HUMBLE themselves**, and pray, and SEEK my face, and TURN FROM their wicked ways; then will I HEAR from heaven, and will **forgive their sin**, and will heal their land.

Judges 4:4, And **Deborah**, a **prophetess** (a FEMALE prophet), the **WIFE** of **Lapidoth**, she **JUDGED** Israel at that time.

Judged defined 8199, pronounce sentence (for or against); to GOVERN; to litigate [take proceedings], execute (judgment), **RULE** (to exercise **controlling AUTHORITY**).

Thought 1. The above verse, among others, prove God DOES put, or SET women in authority OVER men. Some people, in error, believe God set women UNDER men. But, scripture says that God set WIVES under the RULE [control, authority] of their HUSBANDS. So, a women are NOT under men as a gender. But all people are under the authorities, which includes pastors of assemblies of believers in Christ.

Genesis 3:16, Unto the **woman** he said... and thy **DESIRE** shall be to **thy HUSBAND** and HE shall **RULE OVER thee**.

1 Corinthians 11:3 ...the **head** (place of leadership) of every **man (husband)** is Christ; and the **head** (place of leadership) of the **woman (WIFE)** is the **man (husband)**; and the **head** of Christ is God (*the Father*).

1 Timothy 2:11-14, Let the **woman (WIFE)** learn in silence with all **subjection**. (*to her husband*) But I **suffer (to turn over [transfer])** NOT a **woman (WIFE)** to **TEACH**, nor to **usurp authority (dominate)** OVER

the **man (husband)**, but to be in **silence**. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

Thought 2. The custom was, and IS today, for some congregations to put all women on one side in the building, and the men on the other side of the aisle. The problem was that some WIVES were causing confusion in the assembly, asking questions OUT LOUD of their husbands across the aisle.

1 Corinthians 14:35, And if they will LEARN anything, let them ASK their **husbands** at home: for it is a **shame** for **women (wife)** to speak in the church.

Thought 3. So, Deborah RULED the whole nation of Israel. But, God was ruling and leading through her, as he does through ALL good leaders that he SETS over HIS people. Let's take a look at the scriptures that make plain this truth.

Let's first establish the fact that Yahweh RULES through people, IF they let him. Next, whether they allow him to rule through them or NOT, the authority (power) they possess comes from HIM, who RULES from heaven. To ignore, purposely misquote, or in error believe, and therefore say, scriptures do NOT mean what they say, is NOT honest, and it's also pride.

Daniel 4:24-26, This is the interpretation (*of your dream*), O king, and this is the decree of the **MOST High**, which is come upon my lord the king: That 'they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, **TILL thou KNOW** that the **most High RULETH** in the kingdom of men, and **giveth** it to whomsoever HE WILL. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be **sure** unto thee, **AFTER that thou** shalt have **KNOWN** that the **heavens DO RULE**.

Romans 13:1, Let every soul be **subject** unto the **higher POWERS (potentate [emperor, king, QUEEN, president])**. For there is no power but of (from) God: the powers that be are **ordained** of (from) God.

2 Samuel 23:3 ...He (he, **SHE**) that **RULETH** over **men (mankind)** MUST be JUST, ruling in the **FEAR (reverence)** of God.

Micah 6:4 ...the LORD saith... ...**I sent** before thee Moses, Aaron, and **Miriam**...

Thought 4. Today, some Christians are thinking, "But the Bible speaks of a MAN when it lists the qualifications for being a Bishop (Pastor) or being a Deacon! Well, let's see what the scriptures say about these offices in the body of Christ.

I Timothy 3:1-4, This is a true saying, If a **MAN** desire the office of a **bishop**, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the **husband** of one WIFE, **vigilant, sober, of good behaviour**, given to **hospitality**, apt to **teach**; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that **ruleth well** his **own house**, having his children in subjection with all gravity...

1 Timothy 3:8, 12, Likewise must the **DEACONS** be grave, not doubletongued, NOT given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre... ... Let the **deacons** be the **HUSBANDS** of **one wife**, ruling their children and their own houses well.

Deacons defined 1249. diakonos dee-ak'-on-os probably from an obsolete diako (to run on errands; an attendant, i.e. (genitive case) a WAITER (at table or in other menial duties); specially, a Christian teacher and PASTOR

(technically, a deacon or **DEACONESS**):--deacon, minister, servant.

Thought 5. Scripture/meanings prove deacons also included deaconesses: women! The Greek word for HER position within the church is the SAME as his position.

Romans 16:1, I commend unto you **Phebe** our **SISTER**, which is a **SERVANT** of the church which is at Cenchrea...

Servant defined 1249. diakonos dee-ak'-on-os specially, a Christian teacher and PASTOR (technically, a deacon or DEACONESS).

Thought 6. So, Phebe was at least a “deacon”, and at most a “Pastor.” Therefore, what Paul gave Timothy were **MORAL** requirements from God. Most of all, IN the Body of Christ, there is NO GENDER! Gal. 3:28

Galatians 3:27-28, For as many of you as have been **baptized** INTO Christ have **PUT ON Christ**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond NOR free, there is **NEITHER male nor FEMALE**: for ye are all **ONE** (single by union, a united body) IN Christ Jesus.

Thought 7. We must remember during this time, the church was in the “BABY stage.” And leadership was necessary for ORDER among the believers being added to the church. So, the wisdom of God dictated that Paul and others, first, just use physically older MEN (elders) to be over the flock who were respected by the people, who had good sense, and met the MORAL requirements stated earlier in scripture. They were chosen even though they were NOT a part of the five-fold ministry, which God had SET in the Body of Christ to minister his word and pastor. This was the best God could do until ministers in Christ could mature and be developed.

I Timothy 5:17, Let the **elders** (MEN advanced in age) that **RULE well** be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who **labor** in the **WORD** and **DOCTRINE**...

1 Corinthians 12:27-28, Now **YE** are the **body** of Christ, and **members** in particular. And God hath SET SOME in the **church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers...

Thought 8. So, where does this put Deborah? Oh, that's easy to answer! Deborah led the nation, as Yahweh guided her by his Spirit. But when she got home, her husband, Lapidoth, was the leader in authority.

Judges 4:5-7, And **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**. And **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? And 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.

Thought 1. The Lord had commanded this leader of the armed forces, but he had NOT obeyed him. So, the Lord REVEALED to her what he had said to Barak in order to encourage him to do his part in helping God's people. The MORAL pressure on him by reminding him of God's word, his respect for God, and his leader, would move him out.

NOTE: Note that Deborah's words here are NOT her own, but the words of the Lord, despite the fact of the customary "Thus saith the Lord" being omitted.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/judges-4.html>)

Judges 4:8-9, 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. And she said, I will SURELY go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall NOT be for thine honour (GLORY); for the Lord shall **sell Sisera** into the **hand** of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

NOTE: "If thou wilt go with me, THEN I will go" (Judges 4:9). Barak should NOT be criticized for his reluctance. He was in excellent company. Moses himself was, at first, **unwilling** to undertake the rescue of Israel from Egypt, and Gideon also considered himself to be the least worthy to undertake his Divine assignment. Barak recognized the great difficulty and danger of his call to deliver Israel, and **he needed** the **assurance** that the **presence of Deborah** would provide.

This verse is included here in order to explain why the residence of Heber and his wife Jael happened to be on **Sisera's** route of escape when he fled from the defeat at the river Kishon. The Kenites normally occupied the territory south of the land of Judah, but, perhaps, being discouraged by a recent invasion of the Philistines, they are revealed in this verse to have moved northward beyond the tribal lands of Naphtali. In their new home, they had evidently accommodated themselves to the supremacy of the Canaanites and were considered by Sisera to be his friends or allies. As it turned out, however, **Jael** was passionately **devoted to Israel**.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/judges-4.html>)

Judges 4:10, 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**.

NOTE: And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh,.... This he did either by the sound of a trumpet, as Ehud did, or by sending messengers to them to collect ten thousand men from among them, which they accordingly did...

and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet; they following him up to Mount Tabor cheerfully and readily, being all footmen; for the Israelites had **no cavalry**, and yet got the victory over Sisera's army...

and Deborah went up with him; and his ten thousand footmen, to the top of Mount Tabor, to encourage him and them with her presence, and give her **best advice** when to descend and engage the enemy.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/judges-4.html>)

Judges 4:11-16, 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. And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. 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. 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 (Yahweh) **gone out BEFORE** thee?

So **Barak** went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. And the Lord **discomfited (destroy, crush) Sisera**, and **all his chariots**, and **all his host (ARMY)**, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the **host (army)**, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the **host (army) of Sisera** fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was NOT a man left.

Thought 1. Barak accepted Deborah's position from God, and together they defeated the enemy. The body of Christ should have that same REVERENCE for him, and each member. And we'll have this when we LEARN that there is one body of Christ, of which WE are a part, not having male, nor female, and neither races of people. Galatians 3:28