

THE FAITHFUL JUDGES IN ISRAEL

Introduction: Israel had an impressive list of initial victories over her enemies in the Promised Land, but the job was not done until her enemies were completely driven out or destroyed. This, however, was a task more difficult than it first appeared. They needed to stay close the LORD to have His power and blessings like Joshua and his leaders did, but the next generation departed from the LORD when the original leaders died. So it is with most Christians in the battle against their spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil. Many Christians settle down in their spiritual lives and become satisfied with mediocre performances. They compromise with sins that are difficult to overcome and later those sins become thorns in their sides. But Christians can win the battles like Joshua, if they will walk by faith in obedience to Christ.

Lesson Aim: Persuade Christians to conquer every known sin in their lives by faith in Christ's power.

Memory Verse: "Whoever is born of God overcomes the world: this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (1 Jn 5:4).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:

I. The Problem — 4:1-3

1. Why was Israel ruled by Jabin? 4:1-2
2. Who was the captain of Jabin's army? 4:2
3. What was Israel's response to Jabin's harsh rule? 4:3

II. The Prophetess — 4:4-9

4. Who did the LORD choose to deliver Israel from Sisera? 4:6-7
5. How did Barak respond to Deborah? 4:8
6. How was Barak rebuked for his response to Deborah? 4:9

III. The Preparations — 4:10-14

7. Why did Sisera expect to defeat Barak? 4:13
8. How did Barak know when to attack Sisera? 4:14

IV. The Pursuit — 4:15-22

9. How did the LORD fight against Sisera? 4:15; 5:22-23
10. How did Barak and his army fight against Sisera? 4:16
11. What did Sisera do? 4:17-20
12. How was Deborah's prophecy in 4:9 fulfilled? 4:21-22

V. The Prosperity — 4:23-24

13. What happened to Jabin that allowed Israel to prosper? 4:24

VI. The Praise — 5:1-5, 9-13, 18

14. When did the LORD avenge the Israelites? 5:2
15. What does it mean when Barak was promised to "lead captivity captive"? 5:12-13
16. Why were Zebulun and Naphtali given special honor in defeating the Canaanites? 5:18

BATTLE OF DEBORAH AND BARAK

