

## Deborah and Gideon

Judges 4:1 vs. 6:1. Distinguish "The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD" from "The children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD."

Jabin is king [of Canaan (lowland), reigning in Hazor (fortified)]; Sisera his captain is in Harosheth (Magic City).

4:3, 13. 900 iron chariots [compare with 600 iron chariots in Exodus 14:7] What would it take to stop them?

4:4-5. Deborah is under a palm tree. She is from Ephraim/Joseph. What priority has she?

4:6, 10. Barak goes with 10,000 and Deborah to Mt. Tabor, at the north end of the plain. Opposing them will be chariots, archers, and presumably a whole host of foot soldiers.

Sisera was coming by road on the lee side of the Mt. Carmel range, on the south end of the plain, south of the (perhaps dry) river Kishon. If Barak's troops met them just south of the river, what advantage did Sisera have? **What advantage** did Deborah (and Barak) have?

4:14-15. **How** would Deborah have known when to engage the battle? How did the LORD 'rig' the battle? [5:4-5, 11, 20-21]. What **personal lesson** can each of us derive from it? How did Sisera die? Are these people types? Jabin, Sisera, Barak, Jael.

4:24. What further significance is there to Jabin then being progressively destroyed?

6:3-4. Israel sows. Midian, Amalek and the Arabs destroy.

6:19-21. The sacrifice and offering are put on a rock, and they are consumed. What does that suggest?

6:36-40. **Interpret:** First, the fleece was wet and ground dry. Second, the ground was wet and fleece dry.

7:2-3, 4-8. What might Midian have thought when 22,000 Israelite soldiers left the camp, and when 9,700 more left the camp? [What do you think these soldiers did, once the enemy was fleeing in disarray?]

7:9-14. How did the Midianite know how to interpret the tumbling barley bread dream?

7:15-23. What is the significance of **blowing** the trumpet, **breaking** the pitcher and **holding** the torch?

When the trumpets blew, what would have been the first impulse of those enemies nearest the Israelites? What would be the reaction of those closer to the center of their camp?

7:24-25. What did the Ephraimites do? Why did they protest to Gideon? How did Gideon mollify them?

What **typical significances** might we find in Gideon, his three hundred, and the three enemies? What other night-time battle success can you think of in the Scriptures?

**What** do Barak's battle and Gideon's battle typify? How about the **forty years** that follow?

**What assurance may we receive from the experience of Deborah and Barak?**

**What assurance may we receive from the experience of Gideon?**