

Lesson II. DEBORAH AND BARAK DELIVER ISRAEL January 10, 1915

Judges 4 : 4-16. Study Judges 4 : 4-23 ; 5 : 1-22—Memory Verses, 14, 15.

Golden Text—The righteous cried, and the Lord heard, and delivered them out of all their troubles.—Psalm 34 : 17 (Rev. Ver.).

4 And Deb'orah, a prophetess, the wife of Lap'idoth, she judged Is'rael at that time.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deb'orah between Ra'mah and Beth'el in mount E'phraim ; and the children of Is'rael came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Bar'ak the son of Abin'oam out of Ke'desh-naph'tali, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Is'rael commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Ta'bor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naph'tali and of the children of Zebu'lun ?

7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Ki'shon Sis'era, the captain of Ja'bin's army, with his chariots and his multitude ; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Bar'ak 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.

9 And she said, I will surely go with thee : notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour ; for the Lord shall sell Sis'era into the hand of a woman. And Deb'orah arose, and went with Bar'ak to Ke'desh.

10 And Bar'ak called Zebu'lun and Naph'tali to Ke'desh ; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet : and Deb'orah went up with him.

11 Now He'ber the Ke'nite, which was of the children of Ho'bab the father in law of Mo'ses, had severed himself from the Ke'nites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaana'im, which is by Ke'desh.

12 And they shewed Sis'era that Bar'ak the son of Abin'oam was gone up to mount Ta'bor.

13 And Sis'era gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Haro'sheth of the Gen'tiles

unto the river of Ki'shon.

14 And Deb'orah said unto Bar'ak, Up ; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sis'era into thine hand : is not the Lord gone out before thee ? So Bar'ak went down from mount Ta'bor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 And the Lord discomfited Sis'era, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Bar'ak : so that Sis'era lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16 But Bar'ak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Haro'sheth of the Gen'tiles : and all the host of Sis'era fell upon the edge of the sword ; and there was not a man left.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Barak was a soldier. He was one of the captains of the Israelites. One day he hurried to the home of Deborah. Deborah was a good woman of Israel. God talked to her, and she told the people what God wanted them to do. She was a prophetess, that is, a woman who spoke for God to His people. We saw in our last Lesson how the leaders whom God raised up for His people were called judges. Now Deborah, although she was a woman, was a judge amongst the Israelites. Her home was under a famous palm tree, and thither the people used to come to her when they had any disputes to be settled or were in trouble of any kind.

Deborah had sent for Barak because the children of Israel were again in trouble. Again their enemies had come and fought them, and the enemies had won in battle.

Deborah said to Barak : "God has told you to gather ten thousand soldiers of Israel and lead them toward Mount Tabor. Then He will bring Sisera, the captain of our enemies, near thee. God will give you the victory over him."

Barak said : "If thou wilt go with me, then I will go : but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go." "I will surely go with thee," said Deborah.

Then Barak gathered the ten thousand soldiers and went up to Mount Tabor. Deborah went with them.

Sisera, the captain of Israel's enemies, heard that Barak had gone up to Mount Tabor. He hurried to gather his hosts of soldiers and his nine hundred chariots of iron.

Then Deborah spoke to Barak. She said : "Arise, Barak ! This is the day when the Lord will give Sisera and his soldiers into thy