

# ANCIENT HEROES

August 12, 2018

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## *Deborah*

### Introduction

#### 1. The Enemy

“<sup>1</sup> And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. <sup>3</sup> Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.” (Judges 4:1-3, ESV)

#### 2. Deborah’s Superpower

“<sup>4</sup> Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup> She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. <sup>6</sup> She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup> And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand’?” <sup>8</sup> Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” <sup>9</sup> And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.”” (Judges 4:4-9, ESV)

(For women being prophetesses, see Exodus 15:20, 2 Kings 22:14, Isaiah 8:3, Luke 2:36, Acts 2:17-18, Acts 21:9, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16)

### 3. The Superpower at Work

<sup>14</sup> And Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you?” (Judges 4:14, ESV)

<sup>19</sup> The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. <sup>20</sup> From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. <sup>21</sup> The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might!” (Judges 5:19-21, ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And he said to her, “Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, ‘Is anyone here?’ say, ‘No.’” (Judges 4:20, ESV)

<sup>21</sup> But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.” (Judges 4:21, ESV)

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## Digging Deeper

This week’s passages:

Monday: Judges 4

Tuesday: Judges 5

Wednesday: Proverbs 1

Thursday: Proverbs 2

Friday: Proverbs 3

Weekend: Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day’s passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God is saying to you. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).