

# THE DIVINE TAPESTRY

## Part 20

### “Deborah, Barak and God’s Fingerprints”

Judges 4, 5

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Contrary to popular opinion, the devil is not in the details; because of His sovereignty, God is. Webster’s Dictionary describes sovereign as: “having supreme rank, power, or authority.”

As modern Christians we tend to affirm God’s control of all things theologically in books or in discussions, but ignore it in our everyday existence. However, if God is over all...that includes the details of life, and He intends for us to see this.

In an amazing event recorded in the Book of Judges, we see God’s hand:

- actively orchestrating national events
- changing fearful men into warriors
- using godly women to bolster them and win the day
- leaving His fingerprints everywhere.

## BACKGROUND

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## THE PLAYERS

### ISRAEL

- Forsook God for **Baal** = god of **storms**, war, and **fertility**
- Living in **fear** under Jabin of Canaan
- No one **willing** or able to **defend**

## DEBORAH

- **Prophetess**: She heard directly from God
- Judge: A civil **servant** (not **warrior**, ruler or **priest**)
- A **Mother** in Israel

## BARAK = “**Lightning**”

- A reluctant **leader**
- A **Levite** (possibly a **Nazarite**)
- Probably responds to Deborah because of his knowledge of, and trust in, **God's Word**

HEBER THE KENITE = “Ally” the “SMITH” as in **Blacksmith**

- Related to **Moses**
- Worked at the **oak** at Zaananim
- Canaanites worshipped at **oaks**
- Possible = he plied his trade, working on the **chariots** that **oppressed** God’s people
- Wife: Jael = “**Mountain goat**”

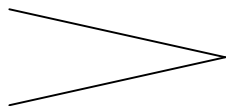
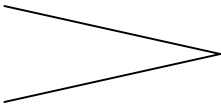
## THE STORY WITH A TWIST

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- “God was watching” Jabin (“watched by God”) who served Baal (“the god of storms”) who is pictured with a **lightning** bolt in his left hand and a club of war in the other.
- God arrayed against Jabin’s general, Sisera (“battle array”):
  - ▶ sent a **storm** this god couldn’t stop
  - ▶ routed their **army** by men without **clubs**
  - ▶ ended his life through a **woman** (spoils of war)
  - ▶ her name: Jael = “Mountain goat”, **worshipped** by many as the **antidote** to storms!

- The focus...Judges 4:14
- In one moment God removed the **power** of the **enemy** and the **weakness** of His **people**!

## KEY THOUGHTS

1. What God **commands** He **empowers**.
2. In **spineless** times God can use a godly woman to bolster a **faulting**, but **faithful** man...this is a high calling!
3. This story has a word of warning to:

- ▶ The **bold** proclaimers
  - ▶ **Deep** thinkers
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- Don't let fear keep you **inactive**
- ▶ Those who are busy in **work** and life
  - ▶ The **vacationer**
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- Inactivity is still **treason!**

# WRAP UP

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