

BARAK – THE RELUCTANT JUDGE – PART 1

--JUDGES 4:1-24--

INTRODUCTION:

So far, we have looked at three judges, we looked at Othniel, the model judge, at Ehud, the unlikely judge, at Shamgar, the unknown judge, and this morning we are going to meet a new judge, Barak, the reluctant judge. The history of Barak is recorded in chapters 4 and 5 of Judges. This morning we will begin going through chapter 4. We will not get through the whole chapter this morning. This chapter divides up easily as it goes from one character in the event to another and that is how I have divided it up. We will be looking at each character in the history of the judge Barak as we come to him in the passage. Barak is the fourth person we will look at this morning, there are three other people we must introduce first, when we get to Barak you will learn why I have called him the reluctant judge.

I. JABIN (Judges 4:1-2a)

- a. In verse one we read of two things, the _____ of Ehud and Israel again doing evil in the sight of the LORD.
- b. The LORD again _____ His people for their apostasy, for their forsaking Him to worship and serve false gods.
- c. In verse two in a very deliberate act of the LORD, we read that He _____ the sons of Israel into the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan.
- d. “Jabin” was most likely a _____ title, much like Pharaoh for the kings of Egypt.

II. SISERA (Judges 4:2b-3)

- a. Jabin’s true success in controlling the northern part of Israel was due to his military power which was commanded by his general Sisera and the 900 iron _____ that he had at his command.
- b. Jabin’s alliance with Sisera _____ Israel’s northern tribes between the two, Jabin in the north and Sisera in the south.

III. DEBORAH (Judges 4:4-5)

- a. Next, we are introduced to _____, we are told several things about her.
- b. As a _____ she serves as a spokesperson for God to the people.
- c. Next, we are told that this prophetess is a married woman, she is the _____ of Lappidoth.
- d. Third, we are told that she is a _____ in Israel.
- e. The fact that she was a _____ in this role was an act of grace on God’s part, but in this male dominated society it was an act of humiliation for the Jews.

IV. BARAK (Judges 4:6-10)

- a. Deborah receives a message from the LORD for _____ the son of Abinoam from the tribe of Naphtali.
- b. Barak has received his orders directly from _____, and this is why I call him the reluctant judge, look at his response to God’s command. “*Then Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.’*” (Judges 4:8, NASB95)
- c. Deborah responds to Barak’s qualification with words of comfort and words of _____.

V. HEBER (Judges 4:11)

- a. Verse 11 seems out of place, we are introduced to a man named _____ who does not seem to have any bearing on the events taking place, at best his introduction is parenthetical.
- b. Heber had _____ from the rest of the Kenites who had gone south and settled in the territory given to Judah.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have looked at the key players of this event in the period of the judges. We have looked at the antagonists, Jabin and Sisera. We have seen the protagonists, Deborah and Barak. We have met a man who seems to be out of place named Heber, but we will see next week how he plays into this event. With all these different

people and the roles that they play in this particular time in the history of Israel it is important to not forget that there is One who ties them all together, One who is directly involved in the events that are taking place here. It is important to remember that this One also is as intimately involved in our lives as He was in the lives of those we have been looking at today. The One I am speaking about, of course, is the LORD.

God is as intimately involved in our lives as in the lives of those in these events that we have looked at this morning. God made promises to mankind in the Old Testament that He would send a Deliverer, a Savior into the world. He kept that promise to us when He sent His only Son into the world. His son took on human flesh and became like us in every way except for sin, He went willingly to the cross and died as our perfect substitute, paying the penalty for our sin and suffering God's wrath against sin on our behalf. At His death, our salvation was secured, and when He rose from the dead on the third day our salvation was confirmed, He conquered that day forever sin, Satan, and death. Then you were born and at some point, God brought into your life a person or several people who shared Christ with you. God chose them to be a witness to you and they heeded His choosing, and you were brought into God's Kingdom through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As you live out the rest of your life indwelt by God's Spirit, He is conforming you to the image of His Son. He is making you ready for eternity in His presence, this is called sanctification. God uses the choices and the circumstances we go through to sanctify us. And one day God will choose you to be His mouthpiece to someone in your life, do not pass up the opportunity to speak for Him.