

## 20 AUGUST

### BIBLE LESSON

Judges 4:8-10

### LESSON

If thou would go,  
then I will

### VERSE 8

*And Barak 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.*

Deborah realised that Israel needed to assemble an army of soldiers and a military captain to lead the army. She had heard of Barak, an experienced captain from the tribe of Naphtali. He lived far north, almost within sight of Jabin's capital. She summoned him to her side to raise and led the army. She realised God would do much of the work through him. When she unfolded to Barak God's plan of deliverance, he was timid, faltering and doubtful.

Barak, soldier and army captain, could get no further than to say, "If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go." Though it was a denial of self-reliance, it was still an unfitting response to a command from God. Barak's faith was manifestly weak like Gideon [Judges 6:15, 36] Moses [Exodus 4:10, 13] and Peter [Matthew 14:30-31]. God's command and promise ought to have been enough. Yet God has not left his name out of the list of faith, any more than that of Samson and Gideon [Hebrews 11:32-34].

Deborah said, "I will surely go with thee." There was no hesitation. She predicted that the Lord would sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. It means that the honour of killing Sisera would be accorded to a woman. In the battle that followed on the plains of Megiddo, Sisera and all his host were completely defeated. Considering the fact that Israel had no weapon and no standing army, what Barak and Deborah did was an amazing act of faith. They trusted God and He gave them a great victory.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 10**  
**ROMANS 10**

### THOUGHT

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.  
– 2 Corinthians 12:9a

21 AUGUST

**BIBLE LESSON**

Judges 4:11-13

**LESSON**

The treachery of Heber

**VERSE 12**

*And they shewed Sisera that  
Barak the son of Abinoam  
was gone up to mount Tabor.*

Sisera got word that Barak was gathering an army with the obvious purpose of overthrowing King Jabin's rule. Sisera went to overwhelm the Israelite army with force. He called together his entire battalion of 900 chariots as well as all the people that were loyal to him. The Kenites were normally friendly to Israel, but Heber the Kenite had separated himself from the majority of the Kenites and had allied himself and collaborated with idolatrous tyrants like Jabin and Sisera.

To betray a trust is to surrender information about a situation or a person to another. It was Heber that warned Sisera that the Israelites were mustering for revolt. It was a deliberate and willful act of betraying the Israelites. But even this treachery was part of God's plan in order to lure Sisera into the trap. This battle was lopsided because God was going to war against the enemies of His people.

If there is anyone who can relate to us about betrayal, it is God. Despite all who betrayed Him, He still found it in His heart to help, forgive, and rebuild relationships. Through scripture, we can find the strength to do the same. The lesson for us is important: God can make even the evil of man serve His purpose: Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee [Psalm 76:10].

Yet, that never diminishes the personal responsibility of the one doing the evil. Judas' betrayal of Jesus served the eternal purpose of God, yet he is still answerable for that evil deed.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL II**  
**ROMANS II**

THOUGHT

God set us up for the victory.

## 22 AUGUST

### BIBLE LESSON

Judges 4:14

**LESSON**  
The Lord  
going before us

### VERSE 14

*And Deborah said unto  
Barak, Up; for this is the day  
in which the LORD hath  
delivered Sisera into thine  
hand: is not the LORD  
gone out before thee?  
So Barak went down from  
mount Tabor, and ten  
thousand men after him.*

“Is not the Lord gone out before thee?” These are the words that Deborah spoke to Barak. This is also a truth that we will do well to take to heart.

The routing and destruction of Sisera’s army was not because Barak held the high ground or had some sort of tactical advantage. The discomfit and defeat of Sisera’s army was because God went before the army and disordered the enemies. It was God Himself Who did the routing and guided the swords of the Israelite soldiers.

The Canaanites depended upon their iron chariots; the Israelites chose to trust in God’s promise. This is the Lord’s doing and no man can take credit for the rout. God uses weak and foolish people and methods. He continues to do so today.

What are you depending upon to give you spiritual victory? Anything that takes place in our lives that can be defined as good, successful, upright, or a righteous victory, takes place not because of our labours and efforts, but because God is working in us and through us. He preserves and He defeats. Yet, how often we are prone to take credit for that which God has done ... and with that, blame God for the bad things that take place in our lives. The fall has twisted and distorted our perspective on what is good or evil.

Give honour to whom honour is due. Give of your best to the Master. Will you offer yourself to the Lord?

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 12**  
**ROMANS 12**

THOUGHT

God intervenes when we act with courageous faith.

23 AUGUST

**BIBLE LESSON**

Judges 4:15-16

**LESSON**  
The Lord  
versus iron chariots

**VERSE 15**

*And the LORD discomfited  
Sisera, and all his chariots,  
and all his host, with the edge  
of the sword before Barak;  
so that Sisera lighted down off  
his chariot, and fled away  
on his feet.*

The Israelites were facing a seemingly impossible situation. The Canaanites were oppressing them. How was it possible that the Israelite army consisting of merely infantry could prevail over an army with nine hundred iron chariots? In war, iron chariots can become a devastating weapon. It was also a symbol of power or glory. There was just no way that Israel could stand up to that kind of power. What could stop such a mighty battle tank? What a powerful army the Canaanites had. Barak's troops were greatly outnumbered.

One person with God can put a thousand to flight. God was with Barak. Sisera's army was thrown into confusion; men, horses, and chariots being intermingled in wild confusion. The disorder was produced by a supernatural panic. Barak and his men had little to do but kill and pursue, Barak with 10,000 men went down to face Sisera. This pictures man's responsibility; God routed Sisera's army, chariots and all. This pictures God's sovereignty.

Life is full of iron chariots. Problems we face. Battles we fight. Difficulties. Trials. Trouble. We sit around in defeat, paralysed in fear. For twenty years the Israelites focused on the problem instead of seeking the Lord. Are you facing some iron chariots in your life? Do they look impossible to overcome? If so - repent, confess and then commit everything to the Lord. He does His best work when things seem impossible. Call on the Lord, cry out to Him and then trust Him – the results might shock you!

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 13**  
**ROMANS 13**

THOUGHT

We need to let God be God.

## 24 AUGUST

### BIBLE LESSON

Judges 4:17-24

### LESSON

The faith Of Jael

#### VERSE 21

*Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.*

Deborah's prophecy was fulfilled: the honour of killing the captain of Jabin's army went to Jael, led by a divine impulse, or in obedience to a divine command, to take away Sisera's life. Her actions helped God to realise His plan by punishing Sisera, measure for measure for his wicked deeds, and by affording Israel a military victory over their enemies.

It was an ordinary, mundane day in the life of Jael; a foreigner who acted out that faith in her family's tent, by herself, in the only way that she knew. Jael was a loyal woman, her allegiance firmly with the Lord. She had watched her husband Heber the Kenite trade his loyalty from the Israelites to King Jabin and Sisera. Jael, however, remained loyal to the Lord and His people. Behind the story of Jael and the death of Sisera is a God who has promised never to forget His people and Who holds to that promise. When hope seems dim and the prospect of victory seems close to impossible, God is at work, bringing about His plan.

We must be courageous and be willing to know the truth and to do what is right, even when it seems too bold to accomplish it on our own. We must learn to rely on God's promises of provision and protection when He calls us to act in His name. We must learn to condition our minds and bodies – keeping them in good health – so that when we are called to accomplish a task that is not easy, we will have the faith not only to say “yes” to God, but also the means to follow through. Let us be alert in the drama of life, knowing in Whom we have placed our trust.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 14**  
**ROMANS 14**

### THOUGHT

When God breaks in on an ordinary day, it becomes extraordinary.

25 AUGUST

**BIBLE LESSON**

Judges 4:22

**LESSON**

Sin nailed down

**VERSE 22**

*And, behold,  
as Barak pursued Sisera,  
Jael came out to meet him,  
and said unto him, Come,  
and I will shew thee the man  
whom thou seekest. And when  
he came into her tent, behold,  
Sisera lay dead, and the nail  
was in his temples.*

Sisera, who had ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, is now dead. The battle is over. He that had thought to destroy Israel with his 900 iron chariots, is himself destroyed with one iron nail. Barak, the reluctant warrior, could now breathe a sigh of relief. The Israelites would have prevented such carnage, if they had sooner destroyed the Canaanites as God had enabled them. The major cause of this period of decline in Israel's history was the neglect of God's Word.

We should not be contented to merely defeat sin as Barak defeated Sisera. We should not rest until sin is dead. We have sin remaining in us in this life. This does not mean we should become complacent about sin. It means we must fight it daily. We are commanded to constantly kill the sin that remains in our lives [Colossians 3:5]. It is not optional. We have to put down sin, or it will put us down. Not that we ever become perfect in this age, but we go on in this spiritual battle against sin.

We should never underestimate the power of sin, but we can never overestimate the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to conquer sin. Sin may remain, but it need not reign (Romans 6:12). Till then, pursue after your sins. Spare them not, neither great nor small, and God will add speed, that you may fight valiantly, and by His grace, overcome them.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 15**  
**ROMANS 15**

THOUGHT

When God pursues the sinner, flight is vain.

## 26 AUGUST

### BIBLE LESSON

Judges 4:23-24

### LESSON

God's subjugation

### VERSE 23

*So God subdued on that day  
Jabin the king of Canaan  
before the children of Israel.*

Everything happens in God's timing. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" [Ecclesiastes 3:1]. In verse 2 of the same chapter, we read that it was the Lord who sold the people into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan. In today's verse, we see that it was God who subdued Jabin before His children. Indeed, the Lord is not a respecter of persons. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" [Job 1:21b].

Yet we rest in the blessed assurance and hope that our Lord Whom we serve is not a capricious tyrant. Although He is in control of everything that happens in life, He bound Himself with a covenant to which He will always stay faithful. Through His promises toward us, we know that His thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give us an expected end [Jeremiah 29:11].

We may not be able to see past the troubles we are facing in life now. The challenges may seem so daunting that sometimes we wonder if God has forsaken us. But rest assured that He is always watching over you. In His time, He will surely deliver.

How blessed it is to live in the good will of the Almighty Lord. Yet woe is to those who fall in the hands of the living God. God's promise to Man is always constant and true. He does not change. Only Man does. Stay steadfast in the faith.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 16**  
**ROMANS 16**

WAIT

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.  
—James 1:3-4

27 AUGUST

**BIBLE LESSON**

Judges 5:1-3

**LESSON**

Praise ye the LORD

**VERSE 3**

*Hear, O ye kings;  
give ear, O ye princes;  
I, even I, will sing unto the  
Lord; I will sing praise to  
the Lord God of Israel.*

Israel was saved from the tyranny of Jabin. He and his iron chariots were utterly destroyed. And by perhaps the most unlikely reason to start with. Thus it is of no wonder that Deborah and Barak are singing praises to the Lord Almighty. “Hear, O ye kings”, “Give ear, O ye princes”. Man may place himself higher than what he ought to think; he may trust in flesh and war machines, but God has proven him wrong. Kings and princes, now who has the last laugh?

Some would say it was almost a song of defiance, but they cannot be any more wrong. This is because the story of mankind is never about earthly kings and princes in the first place. It is all about God. For His own glory, God has ordained for everything to happen. And only to His own glory should all things be ascribed.

Indeed, the children of God have nothing to boast of themselves. If not for God’s extraordinary providence of saving grace, the Israelites would still be suffering under the Canaanites. The Lord has avenged for His people, and He caused His children to come together [v. 2], then will they praise God – for His name is magnified among the nations.

Without Christ, we are still sinners in the bondage of sin and suffering the consequences of it. The Lord has redeemed us and He gathers His saints, so that we will give thanks to Him in unison – to praise Him even unto the end of the world.

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TO COMPLETE THE BIBLE  
IN 2 YEARS, READ  
**I SAMUEL 17**  
**I CORINTHIANS 1**

SING

Marvellous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?