

THE TRUE KING REIGNS Pt 4

Fearfully Faithless or Fearlessly Faithful?

Judges 4:1-5:31 | Pastor Tony Shen | May 3, 2020

I. Who's Who

God: The True King (Dt 11:26-32, 12:8; Jg 17:6, 21:25; 1 Sa 8, 12:17-22)

Jabin: king of Canaan. Enemy and oppressor of Israel.

Sisera: Canaanite. Commander of Jabin's army.

Deborah: Israelite. Prophetess and judge.

Barak: Israelite. Commander of Israelite army.

Kenites: Allies of Israelites. Descendants of Moses' father-in-law.

Heber: Kenite who had abandoned his fellow Kenites and made an alliance with Jabin.

Jael: non-Israelite. Wife of Heber. Assassin of Sisera.

II. Chapter 4: The Story

A. The True King Disciplines His People (4:2)

Oppression for twenty years (4:3)

B. The True King Commands His General (4:6)

God promises to give Barak victory over Sisera (4:7)

Because of Barak's weak faith, God instead will defeat Sisera by the hands of a woman (4:9) – non-male, non-Israelite, non-warrior

C. The True King Leads the Battle (4:14)

The Lord routed Sisera (4:15)

D. The True King Fulfills the Prophecy (4:17-22)

E. The True King Brings Peace (4:23,5:31)

God subdued Jabin (4:23)

Peace for forty years (5:31)

III. Chapter 5: The Song

Theme 1: The True King fights and the True King wins

Theme 2: Participants with God are blessed, while enemies and those who fail to participate with God are taunted and cursed

Theme 3: Role reversal, esp. male-female: Deborah-Barak, Jael-Sisera

A. Extolling of Israel's Protector (2, 4-5, 9, 11)

Taunting of Israel's Oppressors (3, 10, 31a)

Telling of Israel's Poverty (6-8)

B. The Faithful, Fearless Fighters (12-15a, 18)

The Wishy-Washy Wimps (15b-17, 23)

C. Men and Nature Follow the Lord into Battle (18-22)

D. The Curse of God on Meroz (23)

The Coup de Grace on "The Man" (24-27)

E. Lament of the Losers (28-31a)

Augmentation of the Allies (31b)

IV. BELIEVE AND PARTICIPATE

Reflect, Discuss & Apply the Sermon

1. Why is it important that the object of faith (God) is more significant than the strength or weakness of our faith?
2. To what extent do you believe and trust that God is all-powerful and will achieve everlasting victory? We all have fears that prevent us from acting on that belief. What are yours? What's keeping you on the sidelines?
3. For men: how do you need to step up as a leader and warrior, lest God shame you with the Deborahs and Jael's in your life? For women: how do Deborah's and Jael's faith and courage encourage you?
4. "An army strong, whose battle cry is 'Love!', reaching out to those in darkness." Who are those in darkness in your life who need you to reach out in love with the battle cry of God's gospel of Jesus Christ His Son?