

Overview of November Segment 3 lessons



UNIT THEME: Bible History

This month the lessons are about Bible history, in particular the period of the Judges. This is a continuation of the history of the Children of Israel beginning at Abraham and the promise which God made with Abraham and his descendants:

Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:3-5

A notable description of the period of the Judges was that everyone did that which was right in his own eyes.

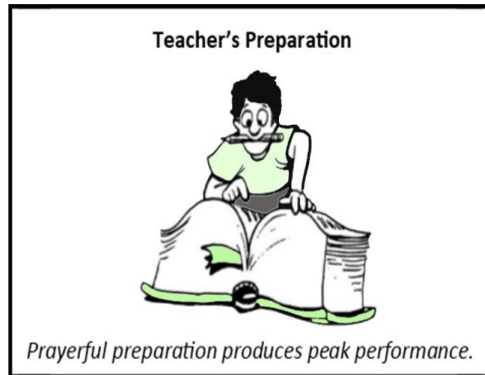
The Book of Judges is a tragic account of how Yahweh [God] was taken for granted by His children year after year, century after century. Judges is a sad contrast to the book of Joshua which chronicles the blessings God bestowed on the Israelites for their obedience in conquering the land. In Judges, they were disobedient and idolatrous, leading to their many defeats. Yet God has never failed to open His arms in love to His people whenever they repented from their wicked ways and called upon His name (Judges 2:18). Through the judges of Israel, God honored His promise to Abraham to protect and bless his offspring (Genesis 12:2-3).

It is hoped that these lessons will stir and strengthen your own faith in God and will inspire your students to develop a relationship with a God who is faithful to his promises.

November Segment 3 Lessons

- 1st Sunday The Period of the Judges
- 2nd Sunday Gideon
- 3rd Sunday Samson (His feats and his fall)
- 4th Sunday Deborah and Barak

LESSON
Teens
November –4th Sunday



November 4th Sunday.... Deborah and Barak Conquered the Canaanites

Topic: Deborah and Barak Conquered the Canaanites

Main Text: Judges 4-5

Central focus: Never underestimate the power of God to use you to accomplish His purpose.

Golden Text: Judges 5:31- "So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might"

Specific Objective/Learning Outcome

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge (What will students know?)

- The Golden Text
- Conditions at the time of Deborah and Barak
- Deborah gave Barak instructions to attack the Canaanites
- Barak obeyed Deborah' instructions to attacked the Canaanites
- The Miraculous Defeat of the Canaanites

Psychomotor Domain - Skills (What will students do?)

Learn the Golden Text

Affective Domain- Attitudes (What will students feel /experience?)

Today we should feel empowered to do whatever God asks us to do.

Teacher's Inspiration

As you prepare to teach your students, may you be inspired by the following information;

Deborah's Song



Deborah's song (Judges 5) is one of the most difficult and debated passages in the Old Testament. However, there are a couple of key features on which most commentators agree.

First, there is a clear narrowing of focus as we move through the song. It begins with a look at the whole nation of Israel, for whom life was insecure and unstable during this period (vv. 1–11). Then the poem focuses on ten tribes, which did and did not participate in the battle (vv. 12–23). Finally, it retells the story of Jael and, interestingly, the mother of Sisera who is indirectly judged for her own role in condoning the wickedness of her son (vv. 14–30).

Second, some prominent themes emerge from Deborah's song. Similar to the historical account in chapter 4, the Lord is praised (v. 31). The poem celebrates that He is at work, and without His intervention, there would have been no deliverance. God chose to work through seemingly weak, but willing, vessels. He used two women to destroy an entire army! Deborah raised up Barak, and Jael brought down Sisera—not through their own power, but through the strength of the Lord alone.

Too often we focus only on what we feel able to accomplish on our own. While having a “can-do” spirit can be a positive trait, we must never forget that God can accomplish even greater things through us.

Ref: <https://www.todayintheword.org/daily-devotional/deborah-a-song-of-victory/>



OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome** Greet each child
- Devotion:** Foster the Holy Spirit's Presence: Song –Prayer
- Topic:** Deborah and Barak Conquered the Canaanites
- Main Text:** Judges 4-5
- Central focus:** Never underestimate the power of God to use you to accomplish His purpose.
- Golden Text:** Judges 5:31- “So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might”

Learn present Golden Text:

Memorization activity:

Read it	Record/write it	Recite it
Register/hear it	Rehearse it	Relate/share it

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

The Imaginative Learner

Why do I need to know this lesson?

Today's lesson is focuses on two of Israel's judges, Deborah and Barak.

Deborah the only female judge mentioned in the book of Judges and she held roles atypical /unusual for a woman in Israel's patriarchal society, and she did not back down from her responsibilities. God called her. She obeyed. Her straightforward response served her and others well throughout her life and offer leadership lessons for believers today.

Before you begin this lesson see how well you do on this simple TRUE of FALSE test about leaders.

1. Only males can be great leaders.
2. Leaders always want to be in the spotlight and lead from the front.
3. Leaders are super-heroes and have no fear.
4. To be successful as a leader you must always have your own way.
5. To seek divine intervention as a leader is a sign of weakness

If you have FALSE for all the answers then you have gotten all of them correct. If you didn't score 100%, this lesson will demonstrate to you what godly leadership is like and that God can use anyone He chooses to accomplish His will.

This lesson is very important for you to know for the various important lessons it teaches, such as, God often calls people to step out in faith to attempt the unexpected; God often uses unlikely people and sources to accomplish His plans; and God sometimes requires great risk and effort on our behalf as part of His divine plan.

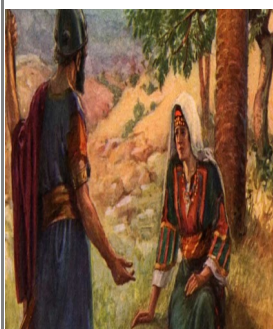
The topics to be covered are:

- Conditions at the time of Deborah and Barak
- Deborah gave Barak instructions to attack the Canaanites
- Barak obeyed Deborah' instructions to attacked the Canaanites
- The Miraculous Defeat of the Canaanites

BODY

The Analytic Learner

What do I need to know?



• Conditions at the time of Deborah and Barak

Years would have passed since the children of Israel entered Canaan the promised land. Once Joshua died, and the last of the elders from that generation had died, there was no leadership, no king, and no real government. God was to be the leader. However, each tribe did it's own thing instead. They did not conquer the rest of the Canaanites as they were told to, even though God sent messages to them to be obedient. An entire generation grew up not knowing anything about God.

Therefore God had the Canaanites stay in the land to test the faith of His people. And they failed miserably. The people fell into gross idolatry and gross immorality to the point that *“everyone did what was right in their own eyes.”* The Israelites found themselves in a cycle of sin which continued for some 300 years. See the cycle below:

- 1) The people sinned against God by worshiping idols and living unholy lives.
- 2) God sent an oppressor/army/disaster to trouble Israel..
- 3) The people cried out to God for help and repented.
- 4) God showed pity and brought about deliverance through a judge.
- 5) The judge leads the people until he died and then the people sin again... etc.

Prior to The time of Deborah Israel would have had 3 previous judges that were risen up to deliver Israel from oppression- Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar. When the Israelites sined God brought on punishment this time by the Canaanites with their king Jabin. During Jabin's reign of terror, vineyards were destroyed, women dishonored, and children killed. When you read carefully through the Song of Deborah and Barak (Judges 5) you gain an insight into some of their problems. They were always in danger of attack along any of their highways (verse 6), and to collect water at a well was to put your life in jeopardy (verse 11). It seems also that at times the people moved out of their homes, towns and villages and went into hiding as the enemy came and stole the fruit of their harvests (verse 7).

After more than 20 years of hardship under the brutish Canaanite leader Jabin, Israel cried out to God. In response God chose a prophetess by the name of Deborah to lead Israel at this difficult time.

Deborah resided by a notable palm tree (which spiritually speaks of uprightness and her wisdom as a prophetess made her a person of renown. Her husband does not feature in the record at all, other than that we are told his name “Lapidoth” which means ‘torch’ or ‘firebrand’. Deborah ministered so that her people might ascend and be in close fellowship with their God and with others.

The characteristics of this special woman are shown in her name, Deborah, which means ‘bee’. These insects, of course, are very industrious and produce a sweet benefit for man. They are not self-seeking either, but work hard for the community. A bee generally is harmless but it will sting if provoked and will die as a result. Deborah likewise was prepared to wage war and put her life in peril for the sake of her people.

Deborah was also a wife, prophet, counselor, poet, and singer. Deborah urged her people to stand against their oppressors and to return to worship of the one true God.

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



Deborah gave Barak instructions to attack the Canaanites

The Israelites had been under the control of the Canaanite king Jabin and the commander of his army, Sisera. The Canaanites had 900 chariots of iron and ruled over Israel for 20 years (Judges 4:2–3).

By God’s grace Deborah called for Barak the son of Abinoam to come to her for guidance. His name means ‘lightning flash’ and he was a heavenly light as he gave spiritual as well as military leadership. (The name Barak is said to be of Hebrew, Swahili and African origin, and is also thought to mean “blessing”).

One of Deborah’s judgments was to instruct Barak to summon 10,000 men and attack Jabin’s army out of Naphtali and Zebulun and to assemble them upon Mount Tabor. Likely fearful to comply with such a command, Barak told Deborah, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go” (Judges 4:8). She replied, “Certainly I will go with you. . . . But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman” (verse 9).

Barak obeyed Deborah’ instructions to attacked the Canaanites

Deborah and Barak then gathered 10,000 troops and attacked Sisera and his army.

By Barak assembling his men upon Mount Tabor, Sisera was encouraged to bring all his chariots out upon the flat plains of Jezreel that lie at the foot of the mount, just as Deborah predicted. This terrain was ideal for these vehicles of terror. Now Sisera must have been very confident of victory as the men of Zebulun and Naphtali were soon surrounded. If the Jews stayed on the mountain top they would die as in a siege. Alternatively, if they chose to descend and fight, Sisera knew that they had no iron weaponry and his chariots would soon overwhelm them. Barak’s take up position seemed to be one of complete foolishness.

Sisera was informed of Barak’s location by Heber (‘comrade’) the Kenite (Judges 4:12). This foolish man was related to Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, and he knew of Israel’s God. His people had lived among the tribe of Judah for generations but he had chosen to separate from the people of God and to be a friend of Jabin and Sisera instead. The name “Zaanaim” (Judges 4:11) means ‘removings’ and so it was that Heber made a disastrous decision. His wife Jael must have been much aggrieved by this change of comradeship.

Ref: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Deborah-and-Barak.html>

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



• The Miraculous Defeat of the Canaanites

- * Sisera's army demolished by divine intervention.

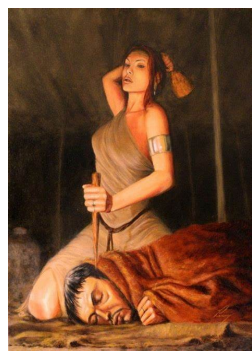
With both Barak and Sisera's armies in position and set according to the Lord's will, we read of Deborah's battle cry: "Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee?" (Judges 4 verse 14). In faith the men charged down the mount without iron sword or spear and miraculously they were victorious.

By reading the words of Deborah and Barak's song (Judges 5:20-23) we understand that God dramatically intervened on their behalf, "... *the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water*" (Judges 5: 4) . ,

There was thunder, the lightning and the heavens poured heavy rain in a flash caused the River Kishon to overflow. The chariots of Sisera were rendered useless by the torrents that overflowed the plains of Jezreel. Evidently, God used a flood to disable the iron chariots of Sisera. The victory was supernatural (verse 20).

The men with Barak then slaughtered the enemy but they were not alone for again we can ascertain from the song (e.g., Judges 5:8) that men of faith from other tribes numbering in total another 30,000 arrived on the scene and helped their brethren. So it was that by faith and God's blessing that the people of God overcame the enemy comprehensively. According to 4: 16 and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

Ref: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Deborah-and-Barak.html>



- * Sisera killed by Jael

Sisera however escaped the carnage and ran for his life. He sought refuge in Jael's tent the wife of Heber the Kenite. So Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

"I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water." She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

"Stand in the doorway of the tent," he told her. "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.' "

But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for." So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead. Lord did deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman" (verse 9).

On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

BODY

The Dynamic Learner

What can I do with what I have learnt?
(Application)

DEBORAH THE JUDGE
& BARAK THE COMMANDER



The story of Deborah and Barak teaches at least seven leadership lessons.

1. Never underestimate the power and promises of God. Canaan boasted a greater military presence. However, Israel stepped forth in the power of the one true God.
2. Recognize God's ability to work in unusual circumstances. Deborah rose to leadership in a patriarchal society and gained the trust and honor of those under her leadership. The strength of her character and God's presence in her life outweighed the usual concerns of a male dominated society.
3. Follow God's directions whether we understand them or not. Deborah did not know how God would defeat Sisera, but she knew He would do it in His time and in His way. Barak requested support but followed God's direction as well.
4. Support one another's strengths and supplement one another's needs. Rather than assuming the military leadership typical of other judges, Deborah recognized and utilized Barak's established military expertise. When Barak feared the potential outcome of a battle against Canaan, he relied on the leadership, wisdom, and God-directed life of Deborah.
5. Confront when necessary. Deborah did as Barak requested but let him know what that would mean to his reputation. Whether issues are significant or small, dealing with them swiftly and directly prevents greater problems later.
6. Show respect at all times. When we must disagree or deal with difficult circumstances, we can do so without destroying one another's character. Although Deborah told Barak what to expect, she never tried to usurp his military position, and they continued to work together.
7. Accept the consequences of the choices made. Deborah made God's expectations of Barak and the results of Barak's request clear. Barak chose which path to follow, and he lived with the outcome of his choice.

Ref: <https://inspireafire.com/seven-leadership-lessons-from-deborah-and-barak/>

CONCLUSION

Today's lesson was about Barak and Deborah defeating the Canaanites. The Israelites had been under the control of the Canaanite king Jabin and the commander of his army, Sisera. The Canaanites had 900 chariots of iron and ruled over Israel for 20 years (Judges 4:2–3).

One of Deborah's judgments was to instruct Barak to summon 10,000 men and attack Jabin's army. Likely fearful to comply with such a command, Barak told Deborah, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go" (Judges 4:8). She replied, "Certainly I will go with you. . . . But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman" (verse 9). Deborah and Barak then gathered 10,000 troops and attacked Sisera and his army. Barak's troops won: "All Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left" (Judges 4:16). Sisera himself fled to the tent of a Hebrew woman named Jael. She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket in the tent. Then, "Jael . . . picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died" (verse 21).

Following this battle, "God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him" (Judges 4:23–24). Deborah's prophecy was fulfilled: Barak won, Sisera was killed by a woman, and the Israelites were freed from their enemies. Judges chapter 5 then records the song of Deborah and Barak, written to rejoice in God's victory over the Canaanites.

Never underestimate the power of God to use anyone He chooses to accomplish His purpose.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge...

1. What was Barak's response to Debora when she instructed him to attack the Caananite army ["If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go" (Judges 4:8).]
2. What was Deborah's response to Barak in Judges 4:9 ["Certainly I will go with you. . . . But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman".
3. Give the name of the woman who slew the Sisera, the captain of the Caananite army. [Jael]
4. Who was Jabin? [The Canaanite King]
5. State one lesson about leadership that you learnt from today's lesson.

Psychomotor Domain – Skills... (What the students should do to reinforce what they have learnt.)

Recite Golden Text _____

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Affective Domain- Attitudes - (What the students should feel /experience.)

How does today's lesson make you feel?

What attitude or behavior does it make you want to change?

Today we should feel empowered to do whatever God asks us to do.

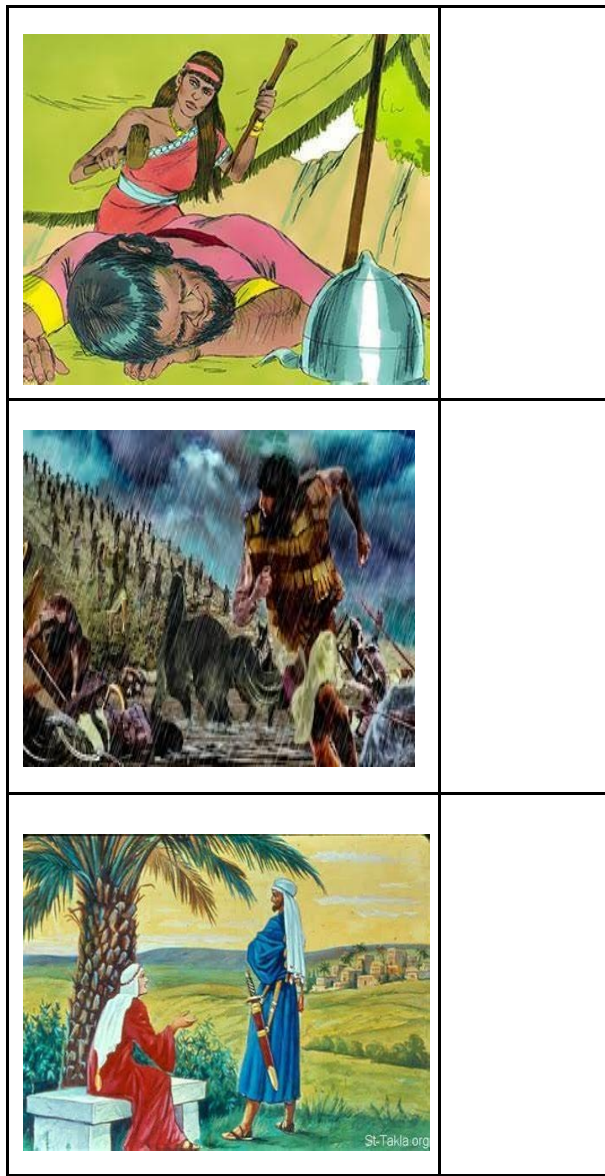
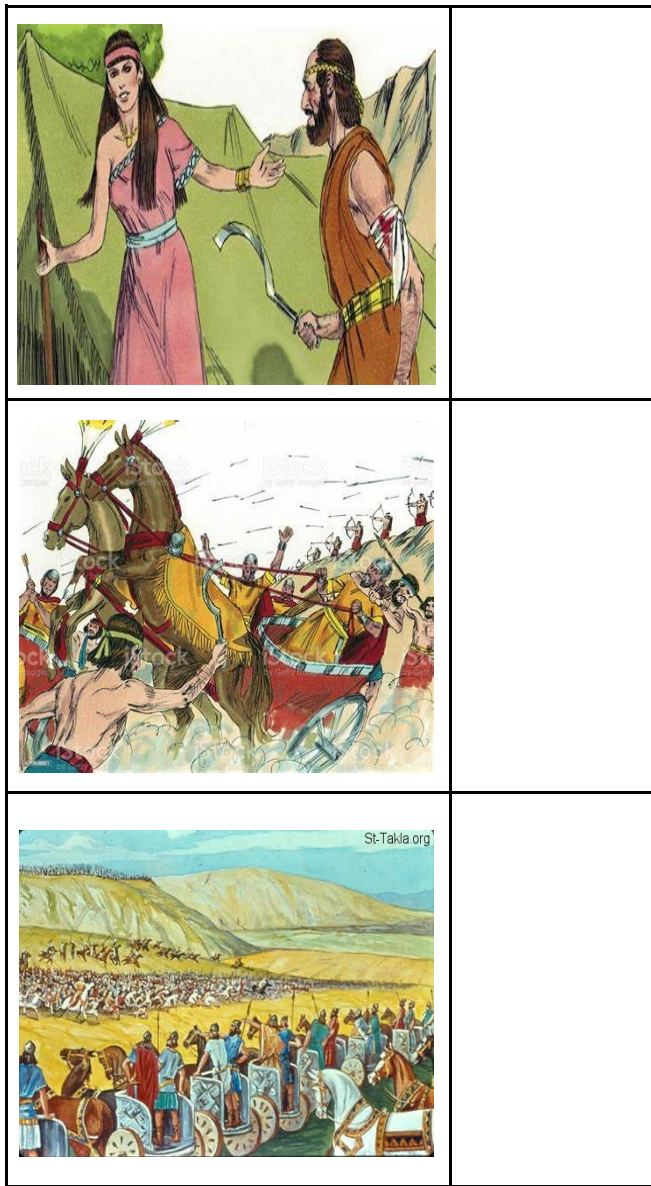
Let's pray and ask God to help us to experience this feeling and to change any attitude or behavior that this lesson features as being displeasing to Him.

Prayer

Next lesson

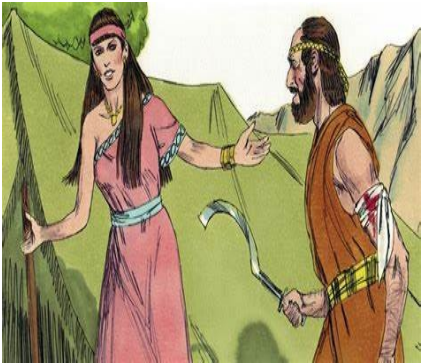

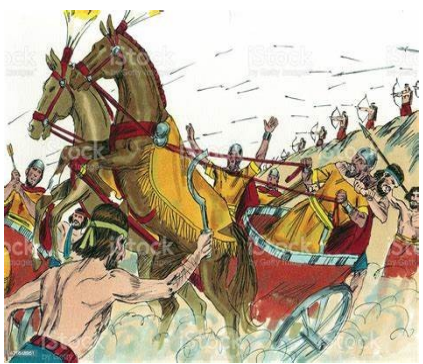



Activity : Story telling

Place the scenes in the order they would appear in the story Deborah and Barak in Judges 4-5 by assigning a number from 1-6 to each picture in the column to the right.



Activity : Story telling (Solution)

Place the scenes in the order they would appear in the story Deborah and Barak in Judges 4-5 by assigning a number from 1-6 to each picture in the column to the right.

	<p>6. Barak came in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael shows him that she has slain Sisera.</p>		<p>5. Jael gets ready to slay Sisera after he takes refuge in her tent.</p>
	<p>3. The battle between the Canaanites and the Israelites with God giving the Israelites a miraculous victory.</p>		<p>4. The Canaanite army captain, Sisera, escapes from the battle.</p>
	<p>2. Barak and Deborah along with 10,000 Israelites gather on the hillside and the Canaanites gather in the plain for war.</p>		<p>1. Deborah instructs Barak to go to war with the Canaanites</p>