

# Judges 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

This passage relates to Deborah and Barak's victory over Sisera, demonstrating God's sovereign choice and empowerment of deliverers. The judges themselves display varying degrees of faith and character flaws, yet God works through these imperfect human instruments to accomplish His purposes. This illustrates the biblical pattern that God's power is made perfect in human weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Theologically, these early judges establish the pattern of divine deliverance through unlikely means. God chooses the weak, marginalized, and flawed to demonstrate that victory comes from His power, not human strength. This anticipates Paul's teaching that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27).

The military victories recorded here serve spiritual purposes—they deliver Israel from physical oppression but more importantly provide opportunity for spiritual

renewal. Each deliverance creates space for Israel to return to covenant faithfulness. However, the repeated cycles show these deliverances provided only temporary relief, pointing to the need for the ultimate Deliverer who would provide permanent victory over sin and spiritual oppression through His death and resurrection.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** The Book of Judges spans approximately 350-400 years (c. 1375-1050 BCE) during the Late Bronze Age collapse and early Iron Age. This period saw the disintegration of major empires (Hittites, Mycenaeans) and weakening of Egyptian control over Canaan, creating a power vacuum filled by emerging peoples including Philistines (Sea Peoples), Aramaeans, and regional kingdoms. The decentralized tribal structure left Israel vulnerable to external oppression and internal chaos.

**Cultural Context:** This passage relates to Deborah and Barak's victory over Sisera. Canaanite religion dominated the region, centered on Baal (storm/fertility god), Asherah (mother goddess), and Anat (war goddess). Archaeological discoveries at Ugarit (Ras Shamra) have provided extensive information about Canaanite mythology and religious practices. Baal worship involved ritual prostitution, child sacrifice, and fertility rites tied to agricultural seasons. Israel's persistent attraction to these gods demonstrates the strong cultural pressure to conform to surrounding nations' religious practices.

The material culture of this period shows gradual Israelite settlement in the Canaanite hill country, with simpler pottery and architecture than coastal Canaanite cities. Iron technology was beginning to spread, giving military advantage to peoples who mastered it (note the Philistines' iron monopoly, 1 Samuel 13:19-22). The absence of centralized government during the judges period stands in stark contrast to the bureaucratic city-states of Canaan and the imperial administration of Egypt and Mesopotamia. This political structure reflected Israel's theocratic ideal—God as king—yet the repeated cycles of apostasy showed this ideal required more than political structures; it demanded heart transformation.

## Related Passages

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

# Study Questions

1. How does this passage about Deborah and Barak's victory over Sisera reveal God's character in dealing with persistent human rebellion and incomplete obedience?
  2. What patterns of spiritual compromise or incomplete obedience in your own life mirror Israel's failures during the judges period?
  3. How does understanding the cyclical nature of sin and deliverance in Judges help you appreciate Christ's perfect and final deliverance from sin's power?

## Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּבַר	ה	אֶל	בְּרָק	בְּכָךְ	וְקַם	כִּי	זֶה
<b>said</b>	<b>And Deborah</b>	H413	<b>thee So Barak</b>	<b>Up</b>		H3588		H2088
H559	H1683		H1301	H6965				
בַּיּוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	גַּת	יְהוָה	אֶת	סִיסְרָא			
for this is the day	H834	<b>hath delivered</b>	<b>in which the LORD</b>	H853	<b>Sisera</b>			
H3117		H5414	H3068		H5516			
בְּיָדְךָ	אֲלָכָל	יְהוָה	אֵצֶם	לִפְנֵי יְהָבֵד	וַיָּרַד			
into thine hand	H3808	<b>in which the LORD</b>	<b>gone out</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>went down</b>			
H3027		H3068	H3318	H6440	H3381			
בְּרָק	רַמְפָּה	תְּבַוּר	מִתְשַׁנְתָּה	אֶלְף	אֲשֶׁר	אַחֲרֵי		
<b>thee So Barak</b>	<b>from mount</b>	<b>Tabor</b>	<b>and ten</b>	<b>thousand</b>	<b>men</b>	<b>after</b>		
H1301	H2022	H8396	H6235	H505	H376	H310		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:3** (References Lord): Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

**2 Samuel 5:24** (References Lord): And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

**Isaiah 52:12** (References Lord): For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

**Micah 2:13** (References Lord): The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.

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