



Jael/Sarah and Hagar

Unusual Women in the Bible Zoom Bible Study

May 17, 2022

JAEL - SISERA'S DEATH:

Judges 4:16 – 24:

Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

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.

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.



Look back at verse 11:

Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaananim near Kedesh.

This is a courageous woman - courageous and ingenious. She thought quickly on the spot and did what had to be done. Can you imagine Barak's amazement when Jael ushers him into the tent and shows him Sisera - dead! And that day they not only got Sisera, but also the king, Jabin.

DEBORAH'S SONG:

Judges 5:1-9

On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

"When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD! "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will praise the LORD, the God of Israel, in song. "When you, LORD, went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai, before the LORD, the God of Israel. "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths. Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel. God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates, but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD!

Judges 5:18-22, 24-27

The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the terraced fields. "Kings came, they fought, the kings of Canaan fought. At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo, they took no plunder of silver. From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be strong! Then thundered the horses' hooves—galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds. . . . "Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead.

Judges 5:31

"So may all your enemies perish, LORD! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years.

Chapter 5 is considered one of the finest specimens of ancient Hebrew poetry. This was Deborah's song of praise, and she gives all credit and honor to the Lord.

Praise is what God seeks from us, and it is the best way possible to rid yourself of the blahs, of discouragement, of depression, of defeat, of weariness - name it. When you don't know how to pray, start praising the Lord for all he has done for you. Praise him out loud. Recite his goodness to you.

Praise is not an act of emotions; it is an act of your will. Praise the Lord anyway!

I wonder, if Deborah were on the scene today, would she be accepted in our midst? She was a bold, courageous, strong lady, called by God for a very special purpose,

Let Deborah be an encouragement to you. Think of her when you feel overwhelmed or dismayed. May God grant that we shall have like-faith and courage to be all God wants us to be!

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10; ESV).

Sarah and Hagar

Genesis 11:26 – 32

After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Interesting that this one bit of information about Sarai is dropped in here—she is barren. Why is that so important?

This is a shame society, and Sarai had to bear the shame of barrenness. So, Sarai's barrenness is no small thing. Sarai's identity was "she is barren." And as she is living with this shame, then God places an unusual call on Abram.

Genesis 12:1 – 7

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'" So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:10 – 20

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

What problems do you see in Abram's behavior here?

What were the consequences of Abram's behavior?

What caused this man of great faith to lose his faith at this point?

Genesis 13:1 – 4

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Now, Abram is back where he is supposed to be—where he had first built an altar and now he calls on the name of the Lord. Isn't it interesting that while in Egypt, he evidently did not call on the name of the Lord. There was no altar there. There was no fellowship with God there. The same is true of us—when we go our own way and disregard God's voice, we lose that sweet fellowship with the Lord. Our altars are missing. Coming back to where God wants you to be is so sweet, so freeing.

Then Abram parts company with Lot and his family, allowing Lot to choose the better land—Sodom and Gomorrah. It certainly looked like the good land to Lot—the land was much better, he could be much more prosperous there. Lot made a choice that cost him greatly—a greedy, selfish choice.

Then God shows Abram what he has in store for him.

Genesis 13:14 – 18

The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring^[a] forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

There God made a covenant with Abram.

Genesis 15:1 – 6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 16:1 – 4

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

What does this tell you about their relationship?

But how could Sarai—how could any wife—not only be willing but actually suggest that her husband take another woman?

8 LESSONS FROM Sarah IN THE BIBLE

Nothing is too difficult for God

God always delivers on His promises

God's Timing is Always Perfect

Patience is a Virtue

Infertility is Not a Punishment

We All Mess Up and God Doesn't Hold it Against Us

Wives Are to Submit to Their Husbands

Following God Isn't Always Easy but it is Always Worth It

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