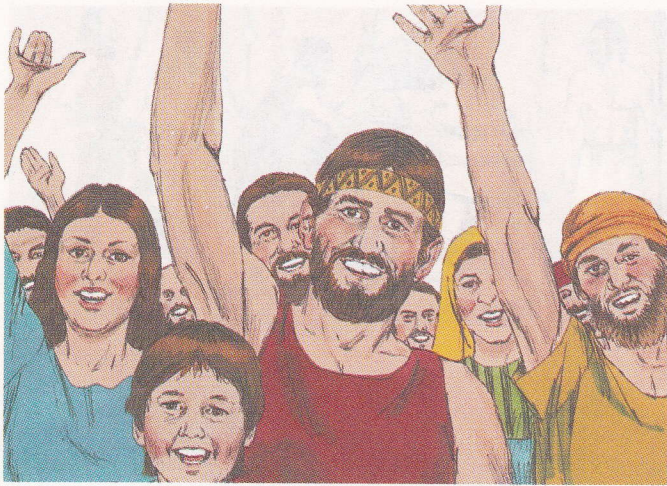
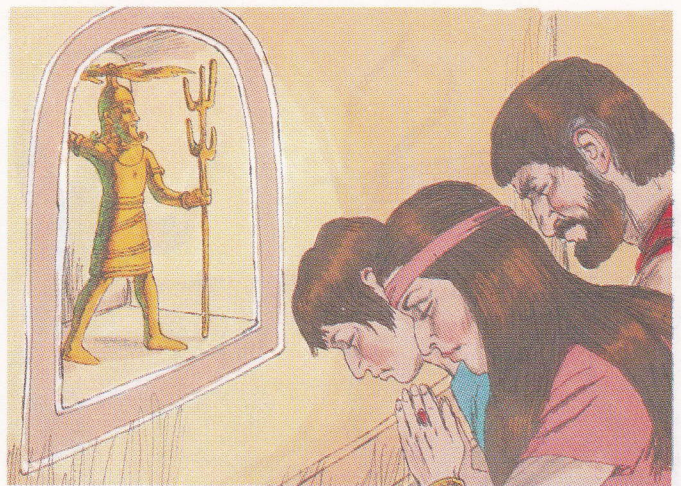


# Deborah



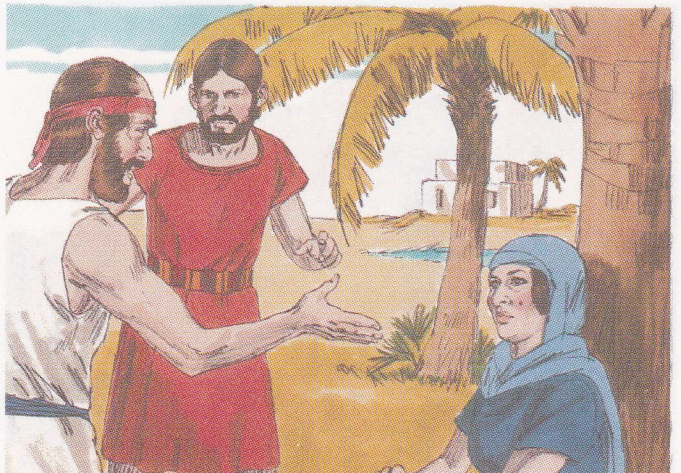
**1** Joshua bravely led the people until they had conquered the land of Canaan. Before he died, he reminded the Israelites of their covenant with the Lord. The people promised to obey God.



**2** But the people had not destroyed all the Canaanites' idols. Before long, some of them began to worship Baal and the gods of the Canaanites. Thus Israel became unfaithful to the Lord.



**3** The Lord let Jabin, king of Hazor, conquer the disobedient people of Israel. Jabin was very cruel, and he treated the Israelites harshly for twenty years. Then Israel began to cry out to God for help.



**4** There was a woman named Deborah, who was not only a prophetess but also a judge. She often sat under a certain palm tree near Bethel. People came there to ask her help in settling problems.



**5** One day, Deborah sent for a man named Barak. She said, "The Lord has ordered you to take soldiers and fight against Jabin's army. He has iron chariots, but you will defeat him."



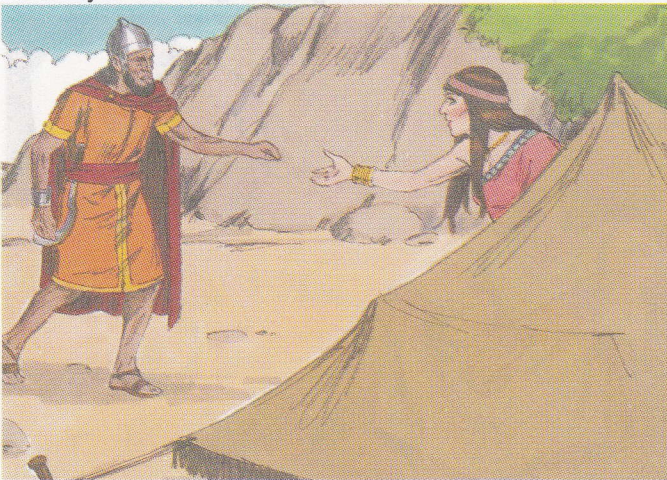
**6** Barak replied, "I will go only if you go with me." She answered, "I'll go, but you will not get credit for the victory. God will hand over Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, to a woman."



**7** So Deborah and Barak went to Kedesh. From there Barak led ten thousand Israelite soldiers to Mount Tabor. When Sisera heard this, he attacked with his army and 900 iron chariots.



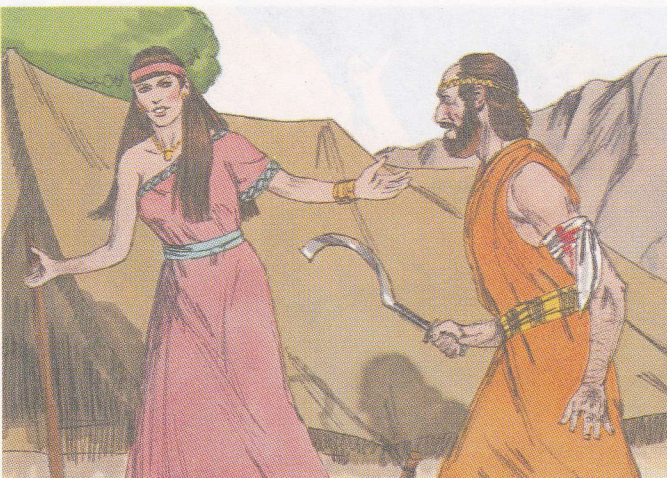
**8** Then Deborah said, "Go, Barak! Today the Lord has given you victory over Sisera!" Barak attacked, and the Lord threw Sisera's army into confusion. The Israelites killed them all!



**9** However, Sisera himself escaped on foot. He came to the tent of Jael—the wife of a man distantly related to Moses! Jael helped Sisera hide inside her tent. She even gave him milk when he was thirsty.



**10** Sisera was very tired and fell sound asleep. Then Jael took a hammer and a tent peg and slipped off beside Sisera. She drove the tent peg through the side of his head and into the ground!



**11** When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael said, "I'll show you the man you are looking for." Inside her tent Barak found the body of Sisera, with the tent peg driven through his head.



**12** On that very day, Deborah and Barak sang praise to the Lord: "So may all your enemies die, O Lord, but may your friends shine like the rising sun!" Afterwards, there was peace for about forty years.