

Sunday Night Message

June 24, 2018

Judges 4 – A Tale of Two Women – Deborah and Jael

Series – *Judges*

Text – Judges 4

Introduction – vs. 1 – 3 – Here We Go Again!

Again Israel sinned, and again Israel would face the consequences of their sin, This time the enemy would be Jabin, king of Canaan; and Sisera, the captain of his army who was the real strength of the kingdom. Some believe that “Jabin” was a title that meant, “king.” Note – there was another Jabin who reigned in Hazor mentioned in Joshua 11. However, the Jabin in Joshua 11 reigned about a century earlier.

Israel enjoyed eighty years of prosperity after being delivered from the Moabites by Ehud. (Judges 3:30) Shamgar was only a regional judge that was contemporary with Deborah. (see Judges 3:31; 5:6 – 8) We are told that once Jabin took control of Israel, he “mightily oppressed” them for twenty years.

I *Deborah – A Courageous Commander (vs. 4 – 16)*

Deborah is one of many women in the Bible who were mightily used of God:

Miriam – Exodus 15:20 – a prophetess

Huldah the Prophetess – 2 Kings 22:14 – 20

Noadiah – Nehemiah 6:14 – a prophetess

Anna – Luke 2:46 – a prophetess

Philip’s Daughters – Acts 21:8 – 9 - prophetesses

Phoebe – Romans 16:1 - a servant (same word as deacon) of the church at Cenchrea.

Deborah was a wife, mother, prophet, and judge. She was a tremendous woman who was able to tackle great things for the Lord, while being a wife and mom.

In between these two very bold women was somewhat of a timid military leader (v. 8 and 14) Barak needed a little encouragement to get moving. Deborah also has to remind him that this victory would come because of a women.

Note – when men avoid their responsibilities as leaders, God will raise up a woman to do the job.

It was actually slightly humiliating for Israel to be judged by a woman. Israel was certainly a male-dominated culture:

"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." (Isaiah 3:12)

For God to give them a woman for a judge, meant that He was treating them like little children, which is how they were acting spiritually. Deborah actually saw herself as "a mother in Israel"

"The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel." (Judges 5:7)

II **Jael – A Crafty Carpenter (vs. 17 – 24)**

Jael was another great lady. She was Kenite. She pretended to be Sisera's friend, and when he fell asleep, she killed him.

Jael was a woman who had enough wisdom to discern that Israel was going to win this battle and her helping Israel's enemy Sisera would ultimately result in the death of her family. She acted decisively and boldly. I wonder what her husband was doing when all of this was going on?

I am reminded of two other women who acted decisively to save their families:

Abigail – 1 Samuel 25:1 – 35

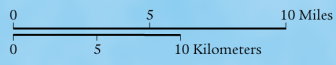
The Wise Woman from 2 Samuel 20:13 – 22

Practical Points

- 1 Women are just as intelligent as men are
- 2 Women are just as wise as men are
- 3 Women can lead as well as men can
- 4 Yet, God has given to the man the position of leadership in the home, and in the church.
- 5 The woman is to respect the leadership of her husband, and women are to respect the leadership of the men in the church.

Ephesians 5:22 – 24; 1 Timothy 2:8 – 15; 1 Corinthians 14:34 – 35

6 This does not mean that women are inferior to men in any way. In many ways women are superior, but God's plan is for the men to lead. However, if the man does not fulfill his God-ordained responsibility, the woman must step in to lead in place of the man.

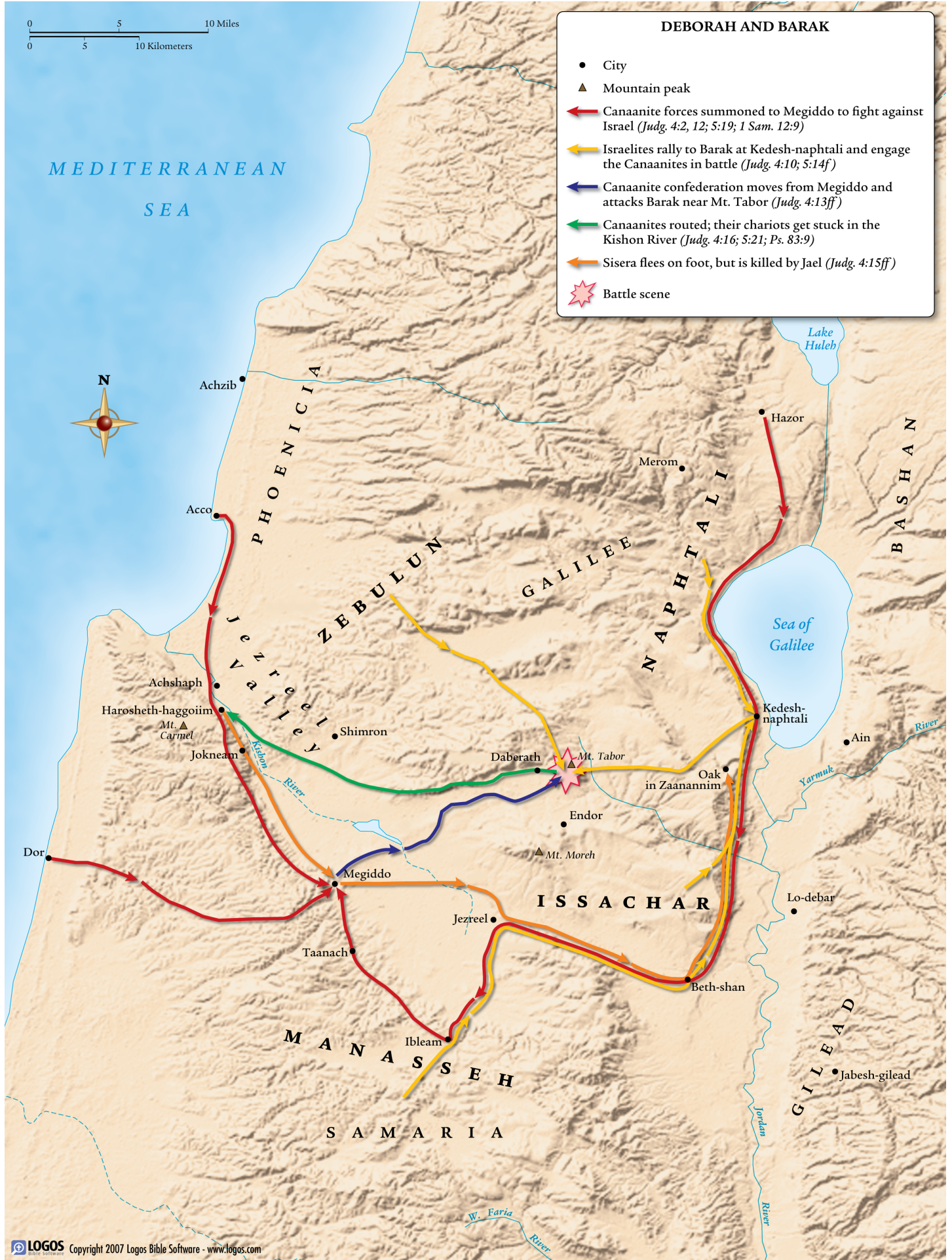


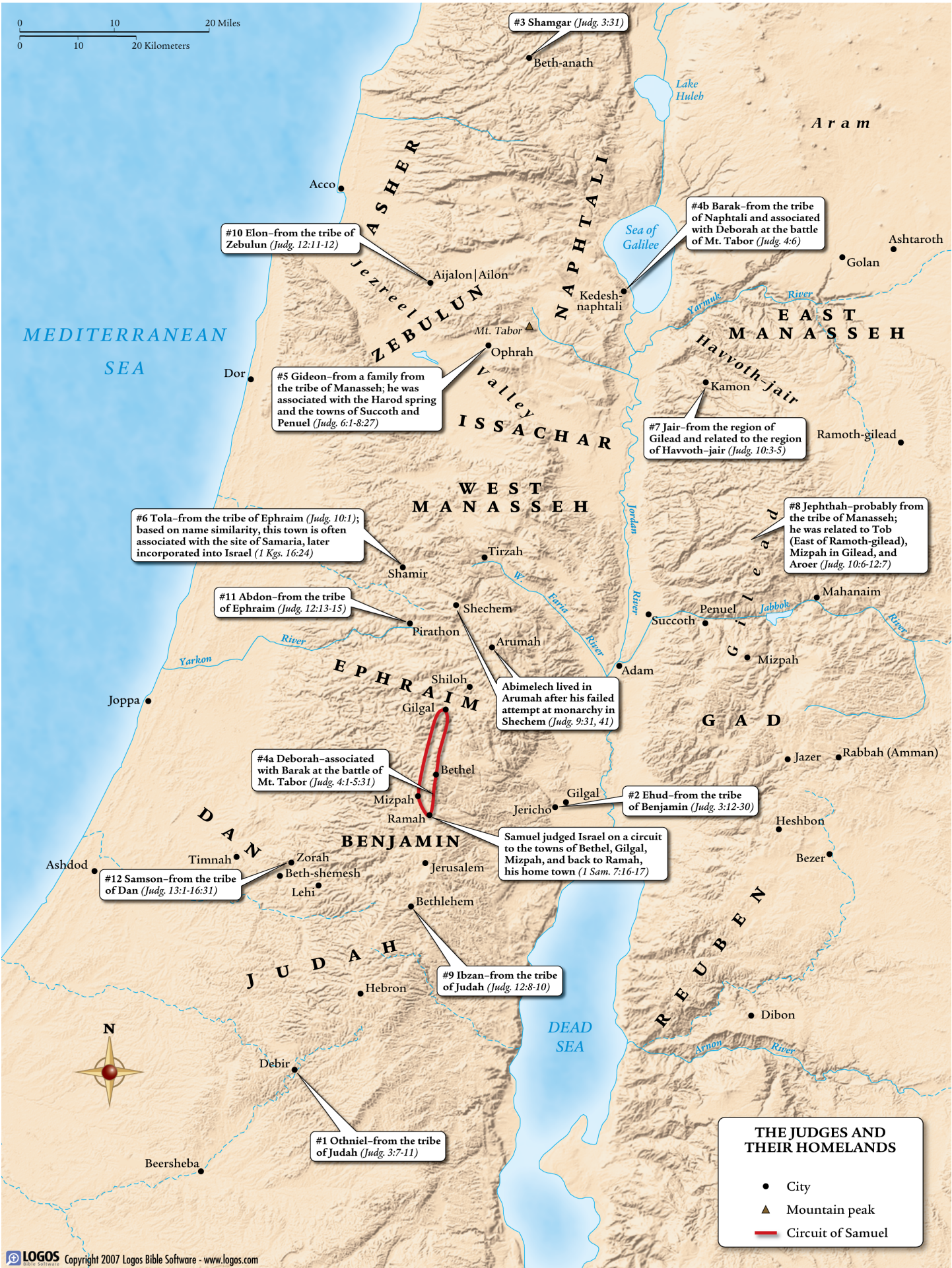
MEDITERRANEAN SEA



DEBORAH AND BARAK

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Canaanite forces summoned to Megiddo to fight against Israel (*Judg. 4:2, 12; 5:19; 1 Sam. 12:9*)
- Israelites rally to Barak at Kedesh-naphtali and engage the Canaanites in battle (*Judg. 4:10; 5:14f*)
- Canaanite confederation moves from Megiddo and attacks Barak near Mt. Tabor (*Judg. 4:13ff*)
- Canaanites routed; their chariots get stuck in the Kishon River (*Judg. 4:16; 5:21; Ps. 83:9*)
- Sisera flees on foot, but is killed by Jael (*Judg. 4:15ff*)
- ★ Battle scene





THE JUDGES AND THEIR HOMELANDS

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Circuit of Samuel