

## Hebrews 11:32 “Barak’s faith”

### I. Introduction

### II. Vs. 32b Pegging Barak’s faith down

#### I. Introduction

Several weeks back I told you that near the close of the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of the “*Hall of Faith*” the writer begins his conclusion in verses 32-34 with six names of men none of which are in chronological order but who all served as rulers or judges of some type. Several of them are quite well known in our Bibles and others are not. Some of them we know specifically the story of faith the writer is eluding too, others there are far too many illustrations to choose from. None of the six are praised for their position instead they are famous because of their faith! This morning we will continue on our journey of faith exploring Barak’s faith then next week we will look at Samson. The context the writer mentions with regards to these names is in his statement “*What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of...*” This suggests that his illustrations are far more general and brief but for us we will need to spend a little more time in our understanding of their illustration of faith.

#### II. Vs. 32b Pegging Barak’s faith down

***Barak***: His story chronologically proceeds Gideon’s as you will read about him and Deborah in Judges chapters 4-5. We are told nothing of Barak’s background and the chapters in Judges deal more with Deborah. It was Deborah the judge who God promised would deliver Israel from the Canaanite King Jabin and his military commander Sisera that had 900 chariots as Barak assembled only 10,000 men from only the two tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun. Deborah describes the situation in her song in chapter 5 of Judges where she says in verse 8 “*There was war in the gates; not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.*” Militarily, Israel was in a hopeless situation as they had no weapons facing a nation armed to the teeth but that wasn’t **their biggest problem, it was that they had left the true and living God. They didn’t need the weapons of the world they need the very present power of the Living God.** Barak’s faith is demonstrated in that he realized that God granted them grace but did so in a humbling way by raising up a woman to deliver them. A mother because they were acting like children! (Jud. 5:7) What Israel needed was spiritual revival not mere religious reformation. There is a big difference between “*religious reformation*” and “*spiritual revival*”. **Reformation only temporarily reforms outward conduct while revival permanently alters inward character.** The trouble was that Israel had waited until oppression you drove them to seek “*religious reformation*” and then **settle only for comfort instead of asking for cleansing!** The actual battle was conducted by Barak in which the nation had three certainties going into the fight:

1. **They were out manned:** *Israel had 10,000 soldiers, Sisera had 900 Iron chariots plus foot soldiers.*
2. **They were out-supplied:** *Deborah wrote that Israel did not have a shield or spear among forty thousand in Israel.*
3. **They were out-positioned:** *Mount Tabor rises 1,300 above the valley floor and their backs were against it.*

Yet that is exactly what God had commanded them to do. **Ever notice that God does His best work when we can’t do ours?** God wanted to teach the nation that it wasn’t the

things the world looked to it was faith in God that produced the victory. In verse 15 we are told that the Lord “*routed*” Sisera and the word there means to “*cause confusion*” how did this happen? The Canaanite god Baal was the god of storms and this must have added to the confusion in the mind of Sisera and his army. As we are told in chapter 5:4-5 and 5:21 we are told that “*The earth trembled and the heavens poured water and the torrent of Kishon swept them away, that ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon.*” God brought about the victory by bringing a flash flood which caused muddy conditions making the chariots of iron a hindrance, not a help in the battle. There was only one thing left to happen and that was the fulfillment of Deborah’s prophecy. Sisera left on foot and ran into a non Jewish tent and a lady whose name means “*mountain goat*”. Sisera has every reason to think he was safe as he and Heber had an agreement and Jael acted like she was there to protect him. Verse 11-12 suggests that it was Heber and Jael that warned Sisera that the Jews were about to revolt as they were gathering an army. It seems as though this family was playing both sides for their own benefit. Thus Barak was out done by a gentile woman using a household tool as it was the women’s job to set up the tent. Jabin and Sisera controlled the Kenites so he was thinking that Heber and Jael would still be under their control as Sisera headed to the house for protection. Jael has a plan to take care of Sisera that involved the most unlikely weapons:

- *A blanket*
- *A warm glass of milk*
- *A tent peg*

As Sisera was ordering Jael around, “*give me a drink of water*” she was about to pin him by pegging him down. Now spiritually I like this as this is how you deal with the old nature that is ordering you around coming into you tent to tell you what to do:

1. *Put the “Blanket” of God grace over it!*
2. *Pour into it the “milk” of the word of God!*
3. *Pin it down by “pegging” it through the thought life!*
4. *Pound it down by “grounding” it in the love of God!*

*This was the last thing that went through Sisera’s mind, it is where we get the phrase walk softly and carry a big stake!*

The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Judges is where Deborah celebrates in the song the destruction of Sisera at the hand of Jael in the same way one might rejoice in Hitler’s death! Jael didn’t let Sisera live in her tent, she pegged him down. How about it are you allowing we allowing Sisera’s of our life to live in our tents and he doesn’t want anyone else to know that he is there? Deborah sings of Sisera having been finally nailed down, no longer oppressing the people. She is again thankful towards all who served to defeat these tyrants saying in verse “*Let those who love Him be like sun when it comes out in full strength.*” Saint’s that’s faith enables us to do, Nail down the enemies in our life, “*the flesh, the world system and satan.*” Chapter 5:7 of Judges doesn’t say that Deborah was the “*mother QE Israel*”, it says that she was a “*mother IN Israel*”. Here was a lady that was a prophetess, a poet, a judge but **she saw as her greatest asset was that she was a mother, she knew how to care for children**. Her mother’s heart caused her to solicit a military man to help in the gathering of 10,000 men to go up against an enemy that outmanned, out armed and out positioned them. I love the fact that in Judges 5:12 that Deborah includes Barak in the song of those who took action even though he didn’t seem to be too into it to begin with. Saints, there is an old proverb that says, “*It is true that the early bird gets the worm, but it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> mouse that gets the cheese!*” Deborah gives us two lists the “*Roster of the Willing*” and the “*Roster of the Reluctant*”. The 6 tribes the came with the right response to God’s call; Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir (which was the ½ tribe of Manasseh who lived west of the Jordan), Zebulun, Issachar and Naphtali. She even singles out the tribes that deserve special mention:

1. Vs. 15 Issachar: *Who went rushing into battle into the valley where they would have been most vulnerable to the 900 Iron chariots.* Interesting to note that

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Barak was with them.

2. Vs. 18a **Zebulun**: ***Who risked their lives to the point of death. It seems as though each of those men in that company put their lives on the line.***
3. Vs. 18b **Naphtali**: Who stood on the heights of the battlefield. ***Which suggests that they chose the “hot spots”*** in the fight and were the “Navy Seals” or “Green Berets” of the fighting men?

***I believe that this is a great picture of many in the church who rush in to serve even when they are most vulnerable, those who are willing to risk, whole heartedly take on the “hot spots”.*** I’m afraid there are far too many in the Church today who are only willing to give God the “leftovers” of their lives to the One who gave them His only begotten Son. ***The problem is that there is to much duty in our service and not enough devotion!*** Deborah, is thankful towards all who served to defeat these tyrants saying in verse “*Let those who love Him be like sun when it comes out in full strength*”. ***The problem with those 4 ½ tribes that didn’t serve was not the QUANTITY of their service but rather in the QUALITY of their relationship with God.*** That is what Jesus told Peter in John 21:15 “If you love Me, feed my lambs.” ***Saint’s, faith dictates that there must be: No, retreat, no reserves, no regrets in our life!***