

## **Old Testament Character Studies: Barak & Jael / Hannah**

*Sunday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 14*

### **Barak and Jael (Sunday, December 11)**

- From Judges 4: 1 – 3, what is the context of the events involving Barak and Jael?
- In Judges 4: 4 – 7, characterize the instructions that Deborah gives to Barak. Based on her instructions, what do we know about Barak's role and background?
- As recorded in Judges 4: 8, how does Barak respond to Deborah's instructions? What does his response indicate about his trust in Deborah and his faith in God? (*Hebrews 11: 32 – 35*)
- In Deborah's response to Barak (recorded in Judges 4: 9), what was her true meaning, and how did Barak likely interpret her comment?
- What were the results of the battle as recorded in Judges 4: 14 – 16?
- According to Judges 4: 11 and Judges 4: 17, who was Jael, and what do we know about her background?
- Describe Jael's statement and actions toward Sisera from Judges 4: 18, and characterize their subsequent conversation recorded in Judges 4: 19 – 20.
- How is Deborah's prophesy from verse 9 fulfilled (as recorded in Judges 4: 21 – 22)? How can we resolve Jael's actions against Sisera in relation to her prior intention to provide him with sanctuary? (*Judges 5: 24 – 27*)
- In Judges 4: 23 – 24, what was the final outcome of the battle?

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## **Hannah (Wednesday, December 14)**

- From 1 Samuel 1: 1 – 7, what do we learn about Hannah’s background and her family relationships? How was she treated due to the fact that she could not have children?
- In 1 Samuel 1: 8, describe Elkanah’s response to Hannah. What does this indicate about their relationship and his feelings toward Hannah?
- In 1 Samuel 1: 10 – 11, how does Hannah respond to her situation? What does her response indicate about her faith and trust in the Lord?
- As recorded in 1 Samuel 1: 17 – 18, how does the priest Eli respond to Hannah’s plea? After she makes her request and vow to the Lord, how does Hannah’s attitude change? (*Philippians 4: 6 – 7; 1 Peter 5: 6 – 7*)
- According to 1 Samuel 1: 19 – 20, what was the result of Hannah’s request and vow?
- From 1 Samuel 1: 21 – 22, is Hannah’s delay in fulfilling her pledge an indication that she is failing to honor her vow to the Lord? How would you characterize her delay?
- As a result of Hannah’s delay, what advice does Elkanah provide in verse 23? (*Deuteronomy 23: 21 – 23*)
- In 1 Samuel 1: 28, what is meant by Hannah saying that she is “lending” her son Samuel to serve the Lord? What does this indicate about her feelings toward the son that God had blessed her with?
- From 1 Samuel 2: 18 – 20, how does Hannah maintain her relationship with Samuel?