

The Faith of Barak
(Hebrews 11:32)

Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11 we read about a number of men and women from the Old Testament who showed how faith will enable a person to be in good standing with God.
2. In vs.32 Barak is mentioned.
 - a. Barak lived when "judges" [deliverers] ruled Israel.
 - b. This was a turbulent period in Israel's history (Judges 2:18-19).
 - c. Barak's activities are recorded in Judges 4-5.

Discussion:

I. JUDGES 4

- A. (vs.1-3) The king of Canaan afflicted the Israelites.
 1. (vs.1) The Israelites had sinned again.
 2. (vs.2, 3b) God punished the Israelites by delivering them to Jabin, king of Canaan.
 - a. Sisera was the captain of Jabin's army.
 - 1) He had 900 chariots of iron.
 - 2) He oppressed Israel 20 years.
 3. (vs.3a) The Israelites cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
- B. (vs.4-5) Deborah judged Israel at that time.
 1. (vs.4) She was a prophetess.
 2. (vs.5) The Israelites came to her for judgment.
- C. (vs.6-10) Deborah called Barak to lead the fight against Sisera.
 1. (vs.6-7) She revealed to Barak the message that God had spoken.
 2. Barak demonstrated his faith by:
 - a. agreeing to fight if Deborah would go with him (vs.8)
 - b. accepting the prophecy about who would take Sisera's life (vs.9)
 - c. following God's instructions (vs.6, 10).
- D. (vs.12-16) Barak and the Israelites defeated Sisera's army.
- E. (vs.17-22) Sisera was killed by a woman named Jael.
 1. (vs.17) Sisera left the battle on foot.
 - a. He went to the tent of Jael.
 - 1) She was the wife of Heber the Kenite.
 - 2) Heber had severed himself from the other Kenites (vs.11).
 - 3) He lived nearby in Kedesh where Barak had called his army (vs.10).
 - b. Since Jabin and Heber were at peace, Sisera went to Jael's tent.
 2. (vs.18-20) Jael allowed Sisera to enter her tent.
 - a. (vs.18b) She covered Sisera with a mantle.
 - b. (vs.19) She gave him milk to drink.
 - c. (vs.20) Sisera asked Jael to lie for him.
 3. (vs.21-22) Jael killed Sisera.
- F. (vs.23-24) God allowed Israel to destroy Jabin.

II. JUDGES 5

- A. (vs.1-31a) Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God for giving them a great victory.
- B. (vs.31b) Israel enjoyed 40 years of peace.