

JUDGES OVERLAPPED

*	Judges/Leaders	Dates (B.C.)	Notes	Deliverer?
1	Othniel	(1373-1334)		Yes
2	Ehud	(1316-1237)		Yes
3	Shamgar	(1265-1252)	He falls within the period of Ehud.	Yes
4	Barak and	(1237-1198)	Concurrent	Yes
5	Deborah			Yes
6	Gideon	(1198-1151)		Yes
	Abimelech	(1151-1149)	Self-appointed over a tribe. Not actually a judge.	N/A
7	Tola	(1149-1126)		No
8	Jair	(1126-1105)		No
	Eli	(1107-1067)	Not included in the Book of Judges	N/A
9	Jephthah	(1087-1081)		Yes
10	Ibzan	(1081-1075)		No
11	Elon	(1075-1065)		No
12	Samson	(1069-1049)		Yes
	Samuel	(1067-1020)	He overlaps with the period of Samson; but he is not included in the Book of Judges.	N/A
13	Abdon	(1065-1058)	He falls within the period of Samuel.	No

- Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar dealt with matters in the south
- Deborah acted on behalf of the northern tribes
- Order of the list of Judges must take into account that they often overlapped

Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

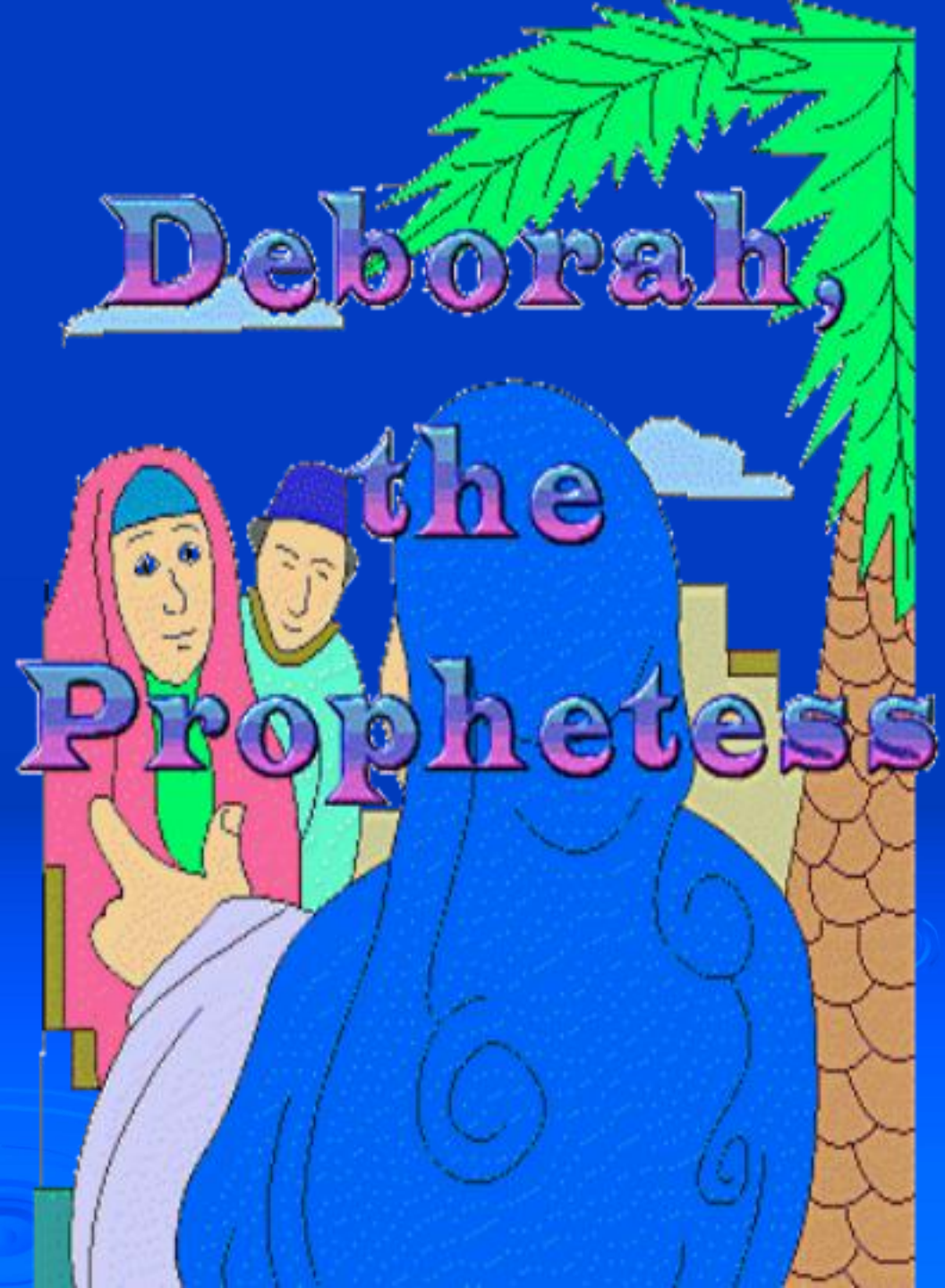
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NORTH VERSUS SOUTH

- Natural boundary of hills between southern tribes and northern tribes of Israel
- Southern and northern tribes progressed somewhat independently of each other
- Only David and Solomon ruled over a fully united nation
- After Solomon's death the nation split into two kingdoms, north (Ephraim) and south (Judah)

- Devorah unique, as a bench judge and a prophet
- All the northern tribes and clans came to Deborah to settle disputes
- Being a prophet of YHWH legitimized Deborah's position to make rulings
- Vs. 5, Deborah announces an oracle from God



PROPHETIC “WORD” MUST BE INFALLIBLE



- Bible prescribes DEATH for false prophets
- If a prophecy does NOT happen, the prophecy is NOT from God
- ONE incorrect prophecy means the person is NOT a prophet!
- Declaring oneself to be a prophet is a dangerous undertaking....BE SURE!!



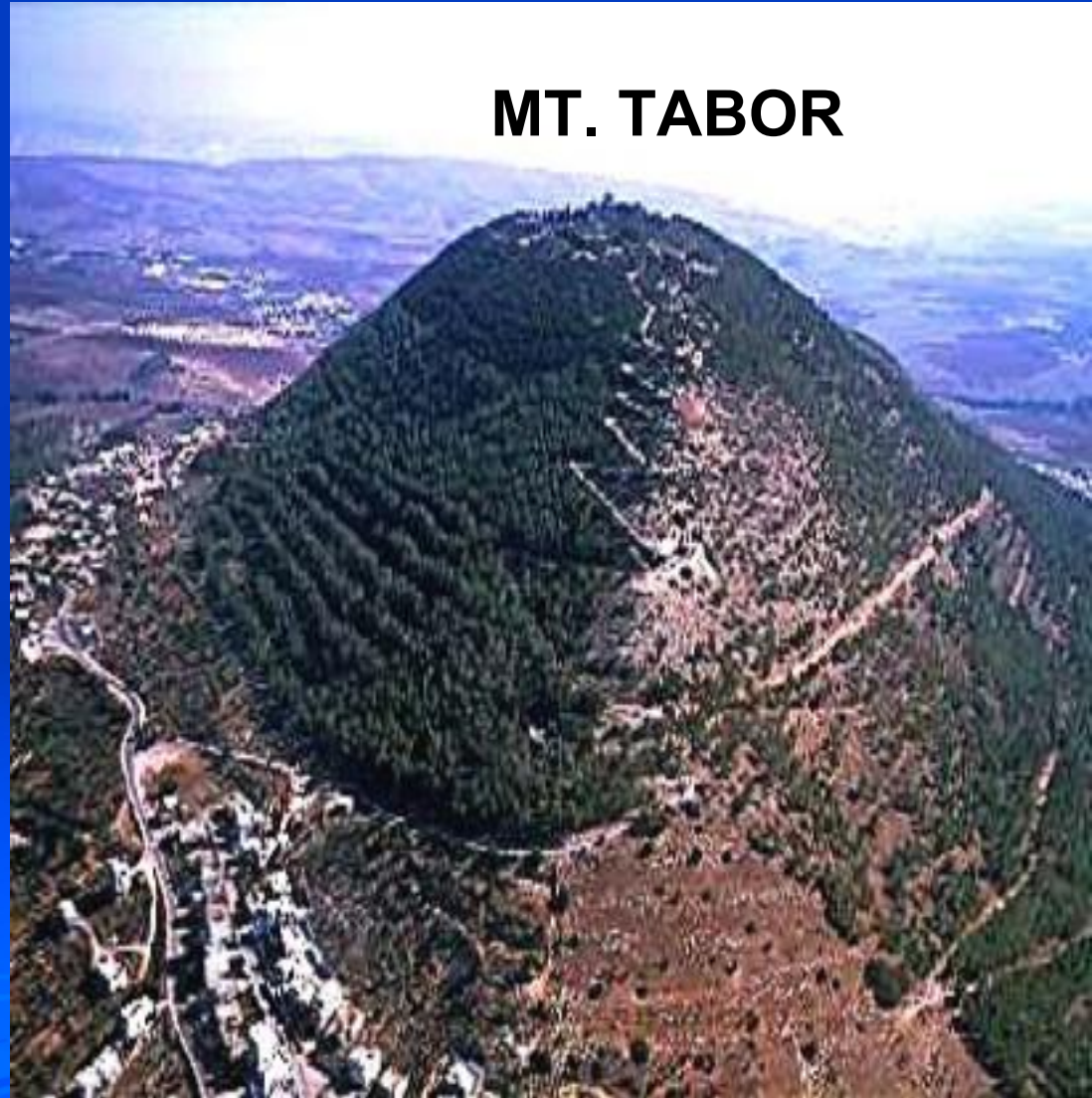
BARAK TEAMS UP WITH DEVORAH

- Barak to take 10,000 troops to Mt. Tabor
- Barak commissioned to confront the enemy forces
- This “Kadesh” was in the north
- Barak probably of the Naphtali tribe (perhaps Issachar)
- Kishon River the 2nd biggest in Canaan



IF.....THEN!!

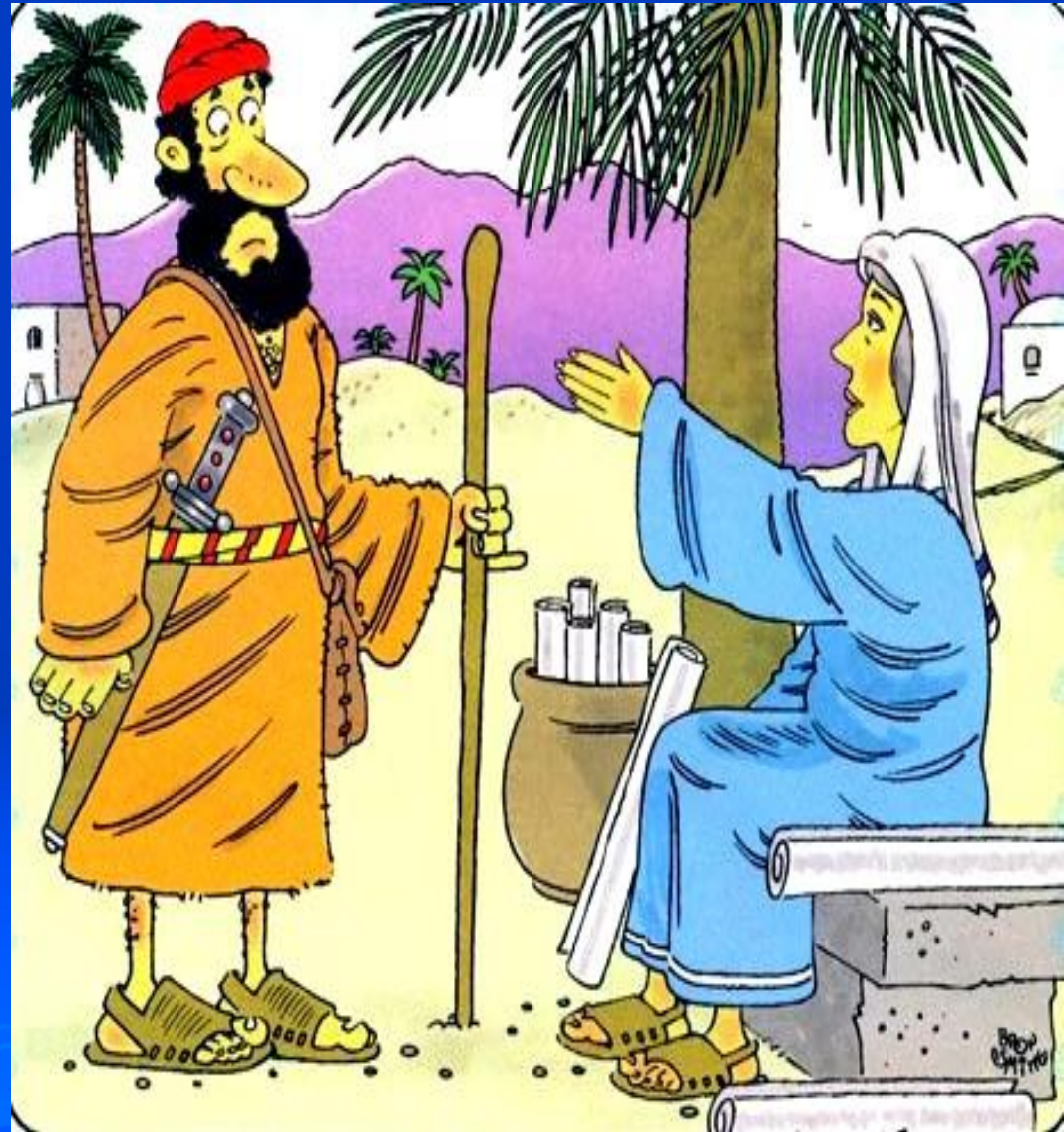
- If, then = a reciprocal action of man, then God
- ***Mashak*** = draw, influence
- Barak to “draw” his men to Tabor
- Then God will “draw” Sisra and his army to the Kishon River
- In Revelation God will “draw” His enemies to the same place for destruction!



MT. TABOR

BARAK THE SKEPTIC

- Barak not so sure about the plan and seeks pre-conditions
- He wants Deborah to come along!
- Not cowardice. He wants to be assured of God's presence at the battle
- Deborah agrees, but says the enemy (Sisera) will be handed over to a woman!



HEVER THE KENITE



- Kenites a clan belonging to tribe of Midian
- Tzippora a Kenite
- Kenites pro-Israel but Hever's clan was pro-Canaanite



- Sisera moves troops from Haroshet-HaGoyim to the Kishon River
- BAD strategy as the high-ground is always key in warfare
- Sisra overly confident in his chariots and strength

THE BATTLE



- Mt. Tabor at the west end of the Jezreel Valley
- Barak's men rush down the hill and engage Sisra's men
- Something went wrong and Sisra's army panicked
- Some (including Sisra) ran away on foot
- Israel chased and killed the entire Canaanite army of Sisra
- Sisra escaped

SISERA KILLED

- Hever's wife Yael greets Sisra and offers his hospitality
- Nomads will protect guests with their very lives
- Sisra offered milk, rest, protection
- Yael drives a tent peg through Sisra's head and instantly kills him
- Sisera WAS handed over to a woman....Yael NOT Deborah!



JUDGES 5: THE SONG OF DEBORAH

- Undoubtedly authored by Devorah
- QUESTION: Was Yael justified in murdering Sisera!
- C.F. Keil says: “.....*the act (of killing Sisera) was not morally justified....*”
- Hebrew sages more tolerant, but still don't excuse the act entirely
- We find Israel often using deceit, spying, ambush, cover of darkness to win battles



KAL V'HOMER: LIGHT AND HEAVY



- Our modern sentiments are not those of ancient biblical times
- God did NOT direct Yael to assassinate Sisera
- Yael NOT a follower of YHWH
- Kal V'homer shows that in this fallen world we have no choice but to weigh the greater goods and lesser evils