



# KINGIESS

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

PART 4:

## FEARLESS

JUDGES 4:1-24  
PASTOR GARY ROWE

**Judges 4:1-3**, *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.*

- ★ **900 Iron Chariots** - or chariots reinforced with iron. These are the equivalent of modern day weapons of mass destruction. Sisera was the commander of the greatest military might in that region, and it would be easy to see them as an invincible enemy.
- ★ Again and again God is bringing Israel to a place of realization that they can't make it on their own!

**Judges 4:4-5**, *Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.*

- ★ Instead of the Lord raising up a single hero or deliverer (as we have seen with Othniel and Ehud), we are instead introduced to a handful of characters and each one participates in some unique way in delivering Israel out of Jabin's hand.

## GOD GIVES \_\_\_\_\_ TO HIS PEOPLE

**Judges 4:6-7**, *She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh- Naphtali and said to him, "Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?'"*

- ★ Barak is told that he is God's man.
- ★ Barak is told of God's plan.
- ★ Barak is told that God will give him victory.
- ★ **Victory is guaranteed!** Barak just needs to go and take steps of faith based on the promises of God.

## GOD'S PROMISES VS. OUR \_\_\_\_\_

**Judges 4:8-9**, *Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.*

- ★ Barak should have known the character and track record of the God making those promises, because this is not the first time that Israel fought against a Jabin, king of Hazor!

**Joshua 11:1-6**, *When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, ... And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.*

*And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel."*

- ★ God didn't need Barak, but he chose Barak and invites him to participate in the victory He is going to have for Israel.
- ★ Barak's faith falters and he misses out on what God has for him.

# GOD \_\_\_\_\_ ON HIS PROMISES

**Judges 4:14-16**, *And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot. And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.*

- ★ God provides a victory just as He said He would.
- ★ Barak is told that the Lord has marched before you, and He will fight this battle on your behalf. This paints such a clear picture of God as King. (See 1Samuel 8:19-20)

**Judges 4:18-23**, *But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. And he said to her, "Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'" But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died. And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.*

*So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.*

## GOD PROMISES ARE \_\_\_\_\_ !

- ★ Just like Barak, God doesn't need our participation; instead **He desires to meet our deepest needs through our participation.**
- ★ In everything that He calls us to do, He says **do not fear** – don't be afraid of the things that God is calling you to do.
- ★ In order for us to participate in the role that God calls us to, it is required that we have faith - **that we trust something more than our five senses.**



**Isaiah 41:10**, *fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**Psalms 23:4**, *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

**Psalms 27**, *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.... You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."*

**Deuteronomy 7:17-21**, *"If you say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?' you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.*