

Now we find some interesting light on this interesting problem in the 4th chapter of Judges. That is the chapter which tells us of the story of how Deborah and Barak released the Israelites from their oppression by the Canaanites. Now there are those who say that women should take no leadership in religious matters; maybe they are right, I don't know. But personally I must say I think the Old Testament is just as much inspired as the New Testament, and while it is true that in the Old Testament the leaders ordinarily are men, yet there are exceptions, and in this 4th chapter of Judges we have a judge who ruled Israel and the name of this judge is Deborah and she is the wife of Lapidoth,- and we don't know anything about Lapidoth. But Deborah was a prophetess who ruled Israel for many years. Now we read in the beginning of this chapter that the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor, the captain of whose host was Sisera who dwelt in Haroseth of the Gentiles. And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, for Jabin and Sisera had 900 chariots of iron and for 20 years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel. They did not cry unto the Lord because this great host of the Canaanites held them in subjection,- they cried to the Lord because he had 900 chariots of iron. In other words, there were weapons there, there was modern technology there, the Canaanites knew how to use iron, they had wonderful chariots of iron and they could draw these chariots with their horses, and even though the Israelites had a far larger number of people the Israelites were helpless before them. Back in the Pentateuch we read that when the Israelites came into the land of Palestine the chief, Og of Bashan, had an iron bedstead, and many a person has used that as a proof that this Book is not reliable and the proof of the