

prophecy and == as a result of my study of Judges 4 and 5. Those chs. I think bring out the difference between them in a very striking situation.

I imagine most of you are familiar with the events contained in Judges 4 and 5. Judges 4 gives the account of the great deliverance God gave the Israelites under the leadership of Deborah and Barak. Ch. 5 is the great psalm of jubilation that was sung after the victory. Ch. 4 taken by itself, if one had no knowledge of conditions in that part of the world, is not particularly easy to understand. Taken together with ch. 5 it is very easy to understand. I'm afraid most Christians when they read ch. 4 have a very hazy idea of what actually happened, because they do not study ch. 5 and bring it in connection with it.

I'd like to look a little bit at what happened as described in these two chapters. So I'd like to read vv. 1-10 and vv. 12-13 of Judges 4. "After Ehud died . . . (reading text) Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time." The NIV translates this "leading" and has a footnote "Traditionally judging". I don't understand quite what they mean by that word "traditionally" except that perhaps that's what's in the KJV. The word used there is a word that is generally translated "judging" in KJV, but when we study the use of the word it includes decisions on cases and that sort of thing, but it has a larger emphasis on carrying out of decisions. The Judge is often the one who is the leader in delivering the people from some great depression. So the word has a bigger sense than just making a decision. I don't know what would be a better translation here than "leading" but I think "leading" gives the sense quite ~~well~~ well. She was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah (continue reading vv. 5-7).

Now as we read this without much knowledge of the particular conditions of this place in Israel, and as we read it without having read ch. 5== studied ch. 5 == those two vv. may not give us a very clear idea of what she meant. But I'm sure it was absolutely clear to Barak what she meant. She said to him, Get 10,000 men to come to gether in order to fight against Sisera. The immediate thought is what good can 10,000 men do against Siser's 900 iron chariots. 900 chariots well-directed could simply wipe out 10,000men with very little effort!

When Musseleni's troops years ago attacked Ethiopia, we are told the Ethiopians came out with spears and tried to fight with spears against those tanks. Of course it was ridiculous. They could not accomplish anything even if there were ten times as many of them as there were of the Italians in their tanks. The weapons of warfare are tremendously important today; and although they were far inferior then to what they are today, they were equally important then if one nation had a tremendous advantage over the other, in this regard.

Here was Sisera with 900 chariots of iron. With these chariots of course there would be in every chariot a charioteer driving and one or two other men shooting with arrows and firing