

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue
JUDGES

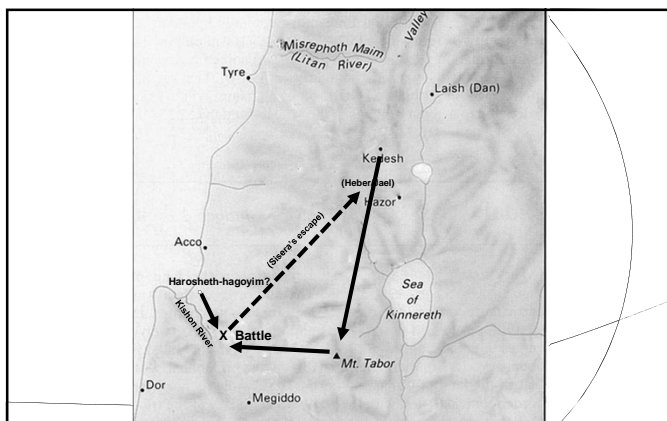
Barack: A Diminished Deliverer
Judges 4-5

Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

²And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; and the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim.

³The sons of Israel cried to the LORD; for he had nine hundred iron chariots, and he oppressed the sons of Israel severely for twenty years.

(Judges 4:1-3)



Theme:

- *This account is deliberately crafted to highlight the unusual and unexpected salvation provided by Yahweh*

A Diminished Deliverer

1. An Unusual Calling

- the Lord used Deborah, a prophetess, to raise up Israel's next deliverer
- Barak's mixed response results in his honor as a deliverer being diminished

A Diminished Deliverer

2. A Decisive Deliverance

- the destruction of Sisera's army is attributed entirely to Yahweh's work
- the Lord used a great storm to render their chariots useless (cf. 5:20-21)

A Diminished Deliverer

3. An Unlikely Hero(ine)

- Jael is a non-Israelite woman whose faith and courage are exemplified (cf. 5:24-27)
- the account of Jael is a display of God's meticulous providence to accomplish His purpose in unexpected ways

Conclusion

- Yahweh achieves His providential, saving designs by means which completely overturn human expectations