



Lesson 63

Lesson 63: What Is Faith? (Part 19) Faith of Barak

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32

A Difficult Verse! (Hebrews 11:32)

- This will be a challenging verse!
- When it comes to Gideon, Barak, and Samson we see more UNBELIEF than FAITH!!
- Yet, the Holy Spirit tells us that we can learn from these men's faith (Romans 15:4).
 - Gideon - a farmer.
 - Barak - an Army General
 - Samson - a religious Nazarite
 - Jephthah - a bastard
 - David - a child becomes king
 - Samuel - a child becomes a prophet
 - Prophets - those who would proclaim, "Thus says the LORD" - many times at the risk of their own lives.

A Look at Barak's Faith

(Judges 4; Hebrews 11:32)

Men of Hebrews 11:32

- MEN of GOD
 - Gideon, a farmer
 - Barak, an Army General
 - Samson, a religious Nazarite
 - Jephthah, a Bastard
 - David, a King
 - Samuel, a Prophet



→ What did these men have in common?

- ① ALL ruled Israel during very dark times.
- Consider Judges 2:6-13; 21:25
- ② ALL had faith that was far from perfect. These men had faith like many of us! It was mingled with fear, soiled with unbelief and doubt, troubled by human reasoning. We are to learn to imitate their strengths – NOT their failures!
- ③ ALL were raised up by God to do extraordinary things.

→ CONSIDER . . .

- ① WE live in very dark times when Christianity is becoming less and less acceptable. (Ephesians 5:15-17; Habakkuk 1:1-4)
- ② WE only have to look at **our** faith and realize that **our** faith is **far** from perfect. We need to pray, “Lord, we believe, help **our** unbelief . . . Increase our faith.” (Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5; 2 Thess 1:3)
- ③ WE have been called upon to earnestly contend for **the** faith. (Jude 4)

Living in Awe of God

★ Our goals for 2024:

- ① We want to see God. (Psalm 119:18)
- ② We want to be filled with awe of Him. (Psalm 33:8; 47:2)
- ③ We want to fear God. (Deuteronomy 10:12-14; Psalm 2:11; Hebrews 12:28-29)
- ④ We want to know Him. (John 17:2-3; Jeremiah 24:7; Colossians 1:9-11)
- ⑤ We want to truly give Him the honor and glory that is DUE His name. We want to worship Him! (Psalm 29:2; 95:6; 96:9; 99:1, 5, 9)

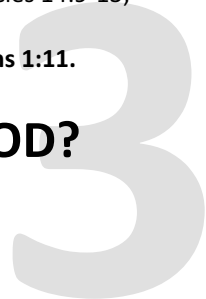
The DEFINITION of the WORD “AWESOME”

An overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, extremely powerful.

- (1 Chronicles 16:31; Psalm 97:1) “The LORD reigns!”
- (Psalm 47:8) God reigns over the nations!

- SOVEREIGN: One who is NOT controlled by outside influences.
 - Daniel 5:18-19 – Nebuchadnezzar’s sovereign rule over Babylon.
 - See Daniel 4:17, 25 – God is sovereign over Nebuchadnezzar! (Proverbs 21:1; 16:9; 20:24; Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 5:15-16; Habakkuk 1:6-10)
 - A sovereign does whatever he wishes! (Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Job 23:13) The SOVEREIGN GOD (Lord GOD) does whatever He wishes, with whatever He wishes, however He wishes, whenever He wishes, ***always as He wishes.***
- We see the SOVEREIGN GOD in Judges 4!
 - (v. 2) The LORD sold His people into the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan! God uses a pagan king and his army as He pleases! (See Isaiah 10:5-6; Isaiah 13)
 - As a result, His people were **harshly oppressed** for **20** years!
 - (vv.6-7) The LORD said, “**I will** deploy Sisera . . . and **I will** deliver . . .”
 - God uses, controls and moves armies! (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 5:26; 10:5-6; Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 25:8-9; 1 Kings 11:14; Habakkuk 1:5-11; Ezekiel 7:24)
 - (v. 9) The LORD was going to sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.
 - God determined when, where and how Sisera would die! (Psalm 31:15; Job 14:5)
 - (v. 15) The LORD routed (**through confusion**) Sisera and his army!
 - (Judges 5:21) “The torrent . . .” God controls the weather! He controls the rain – Genesis 2:5; Amos 4:7; 5:8-9; Psalm 65:9-11; 104:13; Job 37:5-6!
- Before the battle begun the victory is already chosen and Sisera’s death was determined! MEDITATE ON THESE THOUGHTS! (Psalm 33:10,16-17; Proverbs 21:31; Isaiah 31:1; 44:25; Ezekiel 30:10, 20-26)
 - ★ **ALL BATTLES ARE DETERMINED BY THE SOVEREIGN GOD!**
 - **EZEKIEL 30:10, 20-26** - the Battle of Carchemish (605 BC)
 - Proverbs 21:31; Psalm 33:10-11, 16-17; Ezekiel 14:17-18, 28; Joshua 11:4-8; 1 Kings 20:27-29; 2 Chronicles 14:9-13; **Ezekiel 26:7)**
 - **MEDITATE: Ecclesiastes 9:11 with Ephesians 1:11.**

ARE YOU IN AWE OF GOD?



Sisera Gathers His Army

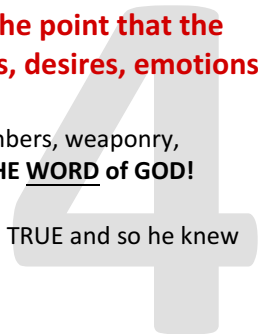
- Commander of a Canaanite army.
 - His commander-in-chief was King Jabin.
- (vv. 3, 13) Sisera gathers his army with all of his 900 iron chariots!
 - ★ Psalm 20:7; Isaiah 31:1; Proverbs 21:31; Jeremiah 17:5
 - Sisera gathers his army at the River Kishon?!!
- (vv. 11-12) Sisera receives intel about Barak's movements. This takes any surprise out of Barak's hands.
- EVERYTHING **SEEMS** TO BE IN SISERA'S FAVOR!
- ★ Sisera has no idea that the outcome of the battle has *already been decided* by the Almighty and Awesome God!
- Once everything seemed to be in Sisera's favor God commands Barak, "For this day I will deliver Sisera into your hand!" (vv. 6-7, 14)

Barak's Faith!

- (vv. 6-7) **Barak hears the Word of God!** Not only does God promise but He instructs Barak where to deploy his troops!
- God moves Barak to Mount Tabor and moves Sisera to the River Kishon!
- Weapons were scarce in Barak's army (Judges 5:8)
- Barak's army was not a "standing" or "established" army. It was a "gathering" of volunteers.
- His volunteers came from Naphtali (Barak's tribe) and their neighbor Zebulum!
 - Zebulum's and Naphtali's volunteers were willing to give their lives. (Judges 5:18)
 - **Others stayed at home! Who are YOU?**
- (v. 8) Is this "if" an "if" of doubt or an "if" of wise precaution!
- BUT what Scripture does make clear is that Barak acted on what he heard to be the Word of God.

Faith Is An Action Word!

- **God given faith convinces the mind to the point that the mind inflames the passions, appetites, desires, emotions and moves the will.**
- Barak had everything working against him – numbers, weaponry, traitors, untrained recruits, – **BUT HE HAD THE WORD of GOD!**
- Barak heard and Barak acted!
- He had the Word of God and he deemed it to be TRUE and so he knew He had God on his side!



- Barak obeyed and God did as He promised! (See Numbers 23:19)
- Barak's faith was seen in his obedience!

What then shall we say to these things?
 If God is for us, who can be against us!
 If God is against us, who can stand?

Lessons for Us in 2024

- ① Either we believe in and trust in the awesome God of the Bible or we believe in and trust in another god. (Deuteronomy 32:39; 4:35, 39; 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 44:6, 8; 45:5-7, 21-22; 46:9; Hosea 13:4)
- ② God disciplines those whom are His own. (Hebrews 12:5-6; Proverbs 3:11-12)
- ③ Some **trust** in chariots, but we **trust** in the name of our God. (Psalm 20:7; 2:12; 40:4; 84:12; Isaiah 31:1; Jeremiah 17:5-8; Isaiah 26:3-4; Proverbs 16:20) **WE MUST TRUST IN GOD!**
- ④ God works in order to bring Himself all the glory. (Isaiah 43:25; 1 Samuel 12:22; Psalm 23:3; 25:11; 106:8; Isaiah 42:8; 43:7; 48:9-11; Ezekiel 36:22; 1 John 2:12)
- ⑤ We need to be men/women that "live (act on) every word of God". (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4) **Faith without obedience is not saving faith. The evidence of our faith is seen in our doing.** (James 2:14-26)
- ⑥ The battles and people of the Bible are there for our learning. (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- ⑦ Our lives and times are in God's hand. (Psalm 31:15; Daniel 5:23; James 4:13-16; Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 16:9; 20:24; Acts 17:28)
- ⑧ ALL glory goes to God in our victories over the trials of 2024.

