

## **Judges 4:1-7<sup>ii</sup>**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

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### **<sup>ii</sup> About Judges 4:1-7**

Today's reading describes the way that God continues to actively intervene in the life of the covenant people after they have taken up residence in the promised land. When their sinfulness provokes God's anger, God allows them to be oppressed by the Canaanite king Jabin and his military leader Sisera.

But then, as before in Egypt, the people cry out for God's help and God empowers their leader Deborah, a prophetess who speaks God's message, to summon the army under Barak, who will lead them to victory because God will be with them. True to the covenant obligations that God has assumed, God once again delivers the people from their enemies.