

5[1] And Bee and Barak, son of Abinoam, sang on that day, saying,

[2] When leaders in Israel led, when people volunteered, bless Yehvah. [3] Listen kings. Give ear rulers. I to Yehvah, I will sing. I will make music to Yehvah, Gods of Israel. [4] Yehvah, in your going out from Seir, in your marching from field of Edom, earth quaked, also heavens dripped, also clouds dripped water. [5] Mountains flowed before Yehvah, this Sinai before Yehvah, Gods of Israel. [6] In days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in days of Jael, paths ceased, walkers of pathways walked crooked<sup>1</sup> paths. [7] Villages<sup>2</sup> ceased in Israel. They ceased until which I arose, Bee, which I arose mother in Israel. [8] He chose<sup>3</sup> new gods,<sup>4</sup> then, war at gates. Was there a shield seen or a spear<sup>5</sup> in 40,000 in Israel?<sup>6</sup> [9] My heart is to commanders<sup>7</sup> of Israel, the volunteers in the people. Bless Yehvah.

[10] Riders of tawny<sup>8</sup> female donkeys,<sup>9</sup> sitting upon garments, and walkers upon the road, talk!<sup>10</sup> [11] From a noise of dividers<sup>11</sup> between watering places, there they recount righteousnesses of Yehvah, righteousnesses of his villages in Israel. Then, people of Yehvah shall go down to the gates. [12] Awake, awake, Bee, awake, awake, speak a song. Arise, Barak, and take captive your captive, son of Abinoam. [13] Then, a survivor<sup>12</sup> came down<sup>13</sup> to majestic ones,<sup>14</sup> people of Yehvah came down to me among the mighty ones. [14] From Ephraim was their root in the Amalek, after you,

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1 עֲקָלְקָלוֹת (ʿaqalqallot) “crooked” YLT, TLB, DARBY, TLV; “byways” NKJV, KJV (w/the word for ways/paths); “roundabout” NAS – found also only in Psalm 125:5 “crooked” NKJV, KJV, NAS, YLT, etc..

2 פְּרָזוֹן (perâzon) “Villages” YLT; “Village life” NKJV, “peasantry” NAS; “rulers” ASV; “valiant men” DRA; “Rural populations”; “warriors” LEB – also only found in Judges 5:11 – exact meaning unknown.

3 יָבַחַר (yivchar) “He chose” (third person singular) - DRA “The Lord chose”; EHV “Israel chose”; “They chose” NKJV, KJV, etc.; New gods “were chosen” NAS

4 אֱלֹהִים חֲדָשִׁים (ʾelohiym chadâshiyim) “new gods” - plural noun, plural adjective

5 Other translations translate this as either a question, e.g. “was there a shield or spear seen . . . ?” KJV, BRG, etc., or in the negative, e.g. “Not a shield or spear was seen . . . .” NKJV, NAS, CSB, etc.. This is because of the uncommon use of אִם (ʾim) “if” by itself in this sentence, indicating a rhetorical question (i.e. expecting the negative answer of “No”).

6 1 Samuel 13:19-20

7 חֹקְקֵי (choqqay) “commanders” NAS; “rulers” NKJV; “governors” KJV – root idea is “those who decree” e.g. Numbers 21:18; Deuteronomy 33:21.

8 צִחְרוֹרֹת (tsechorot) “tawny” (reddish-gray or yellowish-brown) BDB, RSV; “tan” EHV; “white” YLT, NKJV, KJV, NAS, etc.; “shining” WYC; “fair” DRA; “brown” GW, NOG; “light-colored” NET; “fine” NLT – only found here. Same root found only in Ezekiel 27:18 (similar confusion on translation). “White” is לָבָן (lâbân) e.g. Genesis 30:35, 37; Exodus 16:31; Leviticus 13:3, etc..

9 אֲתָנוֹת (ʾatonot) “female donkeys” (plural feminine noun) NET; “she-asses” DARBY; “donkeys” NKJV, NAS, etc.; “asses” KJV, YLT, etc..

10 שִׁיחוּ (siychu) “talk” - “talk about it” CJB, LEB; “meditate” YLT; “speak” NKJV, KJV; “sing” NAS – “talk about it” does capture the idea and use of this word in this context. Elsewhere, it is used likewise (1 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 77:12[13] “talk” NKJV) or for meditating (Psalm 77:6[H7]; 119:15, 23 “meditate” NKJV) or complaining (Job 7:11; Psalm 77:3[4] “complained” NKJV).

11 מְחַצְצִים (mechatstsiym) “dividers” - “those who divide *flocks*” NAS; “divide flocks” EHV; “divide [the spoil]” DARBY; “archers” NKJV, KJV, etc.; “shouters” YLT; “singers [village musicians; or those who distribute the water; or those who divide the sheep]” EXB – verb also found in Job 21:21 (“cut in half”); Proverbs 30:27 (“ranks” i.e. divided sections). חֶץ (chêts) is “arrow” (e.g. 2 Kings 13:17[2x]).

12 שָׁרִיד (sâriyd) “survivor” (singular) - NKJV, NAS “survivors”; KJV “him that remaineth” - same exact word for “survivor” (NAS) in e.g. Joshua 10:28, 30, 33, 37, 39-40; 11:8; etc.

Benjamin, in your people. From Machir<sup>15</sup> commanders came down, and from Zebulun those who grab a recruiter's staff. [15] And officers in Issachar were with Bee, and Issachar, so Barak, sent in the valley under his feet. In divisions of Reuben, great statutes of heart.<sup>16</sup> [16] Why did you sit between the two sheepfolds<sup>17</sup> to hear hissings<sup>18</sup> of flocks? Divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart.

[17] Gilead dwelt beyond the Jordan, and why did Dan sojourn in ships? Asher dwelt by the seashore, and by his landings<sup>19</sup> he dwelt. [18] Zebulun people, he reproached<sup>20</sup> his soul to death, and Naphtali upon heights of a field. [19] Kings came, fought, then kings of Canaan fought in Taanach by waters of Megiddo. Profit<sup>21</sup> of silver they took not. [20] From heavens they fought. The stars<sup>22</sup> from their highways<sup>23</sup> fought with Sisera. [21] Brook Kishon swept them away. Brook of old, brook Kishon, my soul, you trod<sup>24</sup> strength.

[22] Then, heels of a horse<sup>25</sup> struck from galloping, galloping of his mighty ones.<sup>26</sup> [23] “Curse Meroz,”<sup>27</sup> said messenger of Yehvah, “Curse, curse her inhabitants, because they did not come to the help of Yehvah, to the help of Yehvah against the strong ones.”

[24] You are blessed above women,<sup>28</sup> Jael, woman of Heber the Kenite. Above women in the tents, you are blessed. [25] He asked for water. She gave milk in a magnificent bowl.<sup>29</sup> She brought

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13 יָרַד (yerad) “came down” - singular verb, same as later in the verse “came down”

14 אֲדִירִים (addiyriym) “majestic ones” - Green “noble ones”; NKJV, KJV, NAS “nobles” - see footnote for Exodus 15:10.

15 Machir was a son of Manasseh (Genesis 50:23) and here used as a location. See Joshua 17:1 describing the inheritance.

16 חֻקֵּי-לֵב (chiqqêy-lêv) “statutes of heart” - “decrees of heart” YLT; “resolves of heart” NKJV, NAS - “statutes” or “decrees of heart” is evidently a figure of speech for being determined in one's position or perspective.

17 הַמִּשְׁפָּתַיִם (hammishpetayim) “the two sheepfolds” (dual noun, thus “two”) - see footnote for Genesis 49:14.

18 שִׁרְקוֹת (sheriqt) “hissings” WYC; “pipings” NKJV; “piping” NAS; “bleatings” KJV – found also in 2 Chronicles 29:8 (“jeering”); Jeremiah 18:16 (“hissing”); 19:8 (“hissing”); 25:9, 18 (“hissing”); 29:18 (“hissing”); 51:37 (“hissing”); Micah 6:16 (“hissing”).

19 מִפְרָצָיו (miphrâtsâyv) “his landings” ESV, OJB, RSV; “its landings” NAS; “his inlets” NKJV – only here.

20 חָרַף (chêrêph) “reproached” - NAS “despised”; NKJV “jeopardized”; KJV “jeoparded”; CEB, CJB, CEV, ERV, EHV, ESV, EXB, GW, GNT, ICB, MEV, NOG, NCV, NIV, NLT, OJB “risked” - basic idea of the word is to “reproach” as in 2 Kings 19:4, 16, 22-23.

21 בָּצַע (betsa) “profit” MEV; “gain” YLT, KJV, etc.; “plunder” NAS; “spoils” NKJV = unjust gain, see Genesis 37:26.

22 ?Job 38:7; Isaiah 14:13; See also Daniel 10:2, 11-14, 20-11:1; 12:1; Ephesians 6:12.

23 מַסְלֹוֹתָם (mesillotâm) “their highways” YLT; “courses” NKJV, KJV, NAS, etc..

24 תִּדְרֹכִי (tidrekiy) “you trod” imperfect 2<sup>nd</sup> person feminine (“brook” is masculine, “soul” is feminine), trod = past tense of tread – KJV, BRG, DARBY “thou hast trodden down” strength; YLT “thou dost tread down” strength; NKJV “march on” in strength; NAS “march on” with strength. NKJV & NAS translate the verb as an imperative.

25 עֲקֵבֵי-סוּס (iqqevay-sus) “heels of a horse” - YLT “horse-heels”; KJV “horsehoofs”; NKJV “horses hooves” - 1<sup>st</sup> word is “heels” (e.g. Genesis 3:15; 25:26). Same term (“heels of a horse”) found in Genesis 49:17. Horses front heels can get struck by their back hooves and get hurt as a result.

26 אֲבִירָיו (biyâyv) “his mighty ones” - YLT “its mighty ones”; KJV “their mighty ones”; NIV, TLV “his mighty steeds”; NKJV “his steeds”; NAS “his valiant steeds” - same exact word found in context of horses in Jeremiah 8:16 (“His strong ones”); 47:3 (“his strong horses”). This is not a word particular to horses (e.g. 1 Samuel 21:8 “chief”; Job 34:20 “mighty”; Isaiah 10:13 “valiant man”).

27 מְרוֹז (mêroz) “Meroz” - only found here.

28 מִנְּשִׁים (minnâshiyim) “above women” - more literally, “from women” i.e. set apart from other women.

forth cream.<sup>30</sup> [26] Her hand stretched out<sup>31</sup> to the peg, and her right to a workmen's hammer. And she struck Sisera. She smashed<sup>32</sup> his head and split and pierced through his temple. [27] Between<sup>33</sup> her feet he bowed. He fell. He lay between her feet. He bowed. He fell. Where he bowed, there he fell destroyed.<sup>34</sup>

[28] At the window she looked down, and mother of Sisera shrillingly cried out<sup>35</sup> at the lattice, “Why does his chariot delay to come? Why do the steps of his chariots tarry?” [29] Her wise noble ladies answer her. Indeed, she returns her words to herself. [30] “Have they not found, divided spoil, a womb, two wombs<sup>36</sup> to each man,<sup>37</sup> spoil of dyed things to Sisera, spoil of dyed things, embroidered, dyed, two embroidered for necks of spoil?”

[31] Thus, let all your enemies perish, Yehvah. And those who love him, as the sun goes out in his strength.

And the land was quiet forty years.

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29 סֶפֶל אֲדִירִים (sêphel 'addiyriym) “magnificent bowl” - more literally, “bowl of majestics”

30 תֶּמָּאָה (chem'âh) “cream” NKJV, CEB, etc.; “butter” KJV, YLT; “curds” NAS - “cream” fits context here. Translated “cream” also (NKJV) in Job 20:17; 29:6.

31 תִּשְׁלַחְנָה (tishlachnâh) “stretched out” - plural feminine verb for singular feminine noun, “hand.” Gesenius, “perhaps תִּשְׁלַחְנָה is to be read.”

32 מָחָאָה (mâchaqâh) “smashed” NAS, EHV, EXB, ICB, etc.; “pierced” NKJV; “smote off” KJV; “annihilate” BDB – only found here.

33 בֵּין (bêyn) “between” YLT, NAS, etc.; “At” NKJV, KJV, etc. - more literally “between”

34 שָׁדוּד (shâdud) “destroyed” YLT, EHV; “dead” NKJV, KJV, NAS, etc. - not technically a term for death - found also e.g. in Job 12:6 “destroyers” NAS; 15:21 “destroyer” NKJV, NAS; Psalm 17:9 “oppress” NKJV, “despoil” NAS; 91:6 “destruction” NKJV, KJV, NAS, YLT; 137:8 “destroyed” NKJV, KJV, YLT, “devastated” NAS; Proverbs 11:3 “destroy” NKJV, KJV, NAS.

35 תִּיבֵּב (teyabêv) “shrillingly cried out” - BDB “shrilly cried”; “lamented” NAS; “cried out” NKJV; “lamented shrilly” TLV – only found here. “Shrilly” = high pitched.

36 רַחַם רַחֲמָתַיִם (racham rahamâtayim) “a womb, two wombs” - EHV “A womb – no - two wombs”; ESV “A womb or two”; YLT “A female – two females”; NKJV “a girl or two” - this is the word for “womb” (e.g. Isaiah 46:3) and “womb” in dual, thus “two wombs.”

37 לְרֹאשׁ גֶּוֶר (lerosh gever) “to each man” - more literally, “to a head, a man”