

Bible Jam – Class 6; Fall/Winter Semester
Joseph Dorio, Leader
October 19, 2021

Deborah and Jael (Judges 4-5) and



Sister Megan Rice (01/31/1930-10/10/2021)

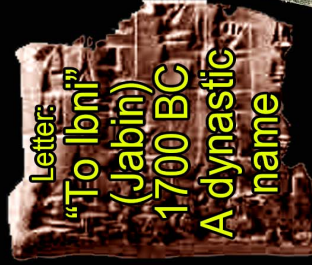
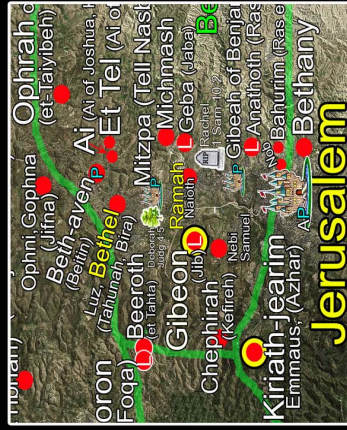


Deborah

Judges 4-5

1204-1144 BC, 60 Years

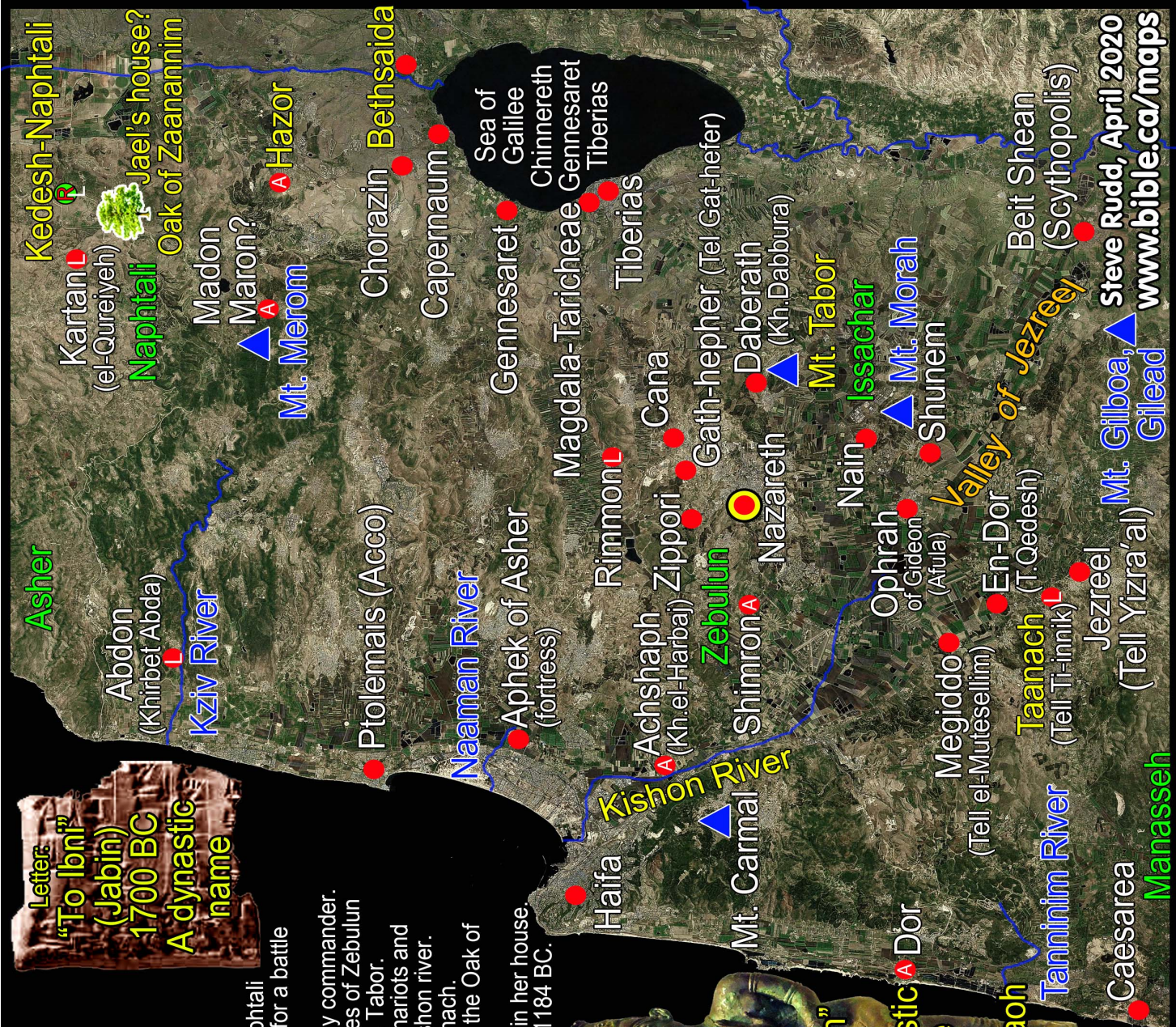
1. Deborah judges between Bethel & Ramah
2. Barak comes to Deborah from Kedesh-Naphtali
3. Deborah tells Barak to assemble his army for a battle that will take place at Mt. Tabor.
4. King Jabin of Hazor, sends Sisera, his army commander.
5. Barak creates army of 10,000 from the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali at Kedesh, then moves to Mt. Tabor.
6. Sisera assembles his army with 900 iron chariots and moves to Mt Tabor, then retreats to the Kishon river.
7. Sisera's army defeated at Kishon and Taanach.
8. Sisera flees to Heber's house for refuge at the Oak of Zaananim.
9. Heber's wife Jael kills Sisera with tent peg in her house.
10. Deborah defeats Jabin & burns Hazor in 1184 BC.
11. In 1184 BC Gideon's army of 300 defeats the Midianites.



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"Jabin" is a dynastic name like Pharaoh



Steve Rudd, April 2020
www.bible.ca/maps

Judges

4¹⁻³ The People of Israel kept right on doing evil in God's sight. With Ehud dead, God sold them off to Jabin king of Canaan who ruled from Hazor. Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim, was the commander of his army. The People of Israel cried out to God because he had cruelly oppressed them with his nine hundred iron chariots for twenty years.

4-5 Deborah was a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth. She was judge over Israel at that time. She held court under Deborah's Palm between Ramah and Bethel in the hills of Ephraim. The People of Israel went to her in matters of justice.

6-7 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "It has become clear that God, the God of Israel, commands you: Go to Mount Tabor and prepare for battle. Take ten companies of soldiers from Naphtali and Zebulun. I'll take care of getting Sisera, the leader of Jabin's army, to the Kishon River with all his chariots and troops. And I'll make sure you win the battle."

8 Barak said, "If you go with me, I'll go. But if you don't go with me, I won't go."

9-10 She said, "Of course I'll go with you. But understand that with an attitude like that, there'll be no glory in it for you. God will use a woman's hand to take care of Sisera."

Deborah got ready and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together at Kedesh. Ten companies of men followed him. And Deborah was with him.

11-13 It happened that Heber the Kenite had parted company with the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' in-law. He was now living at Zaananim Oak near Kedesh. They told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. Sisera immediately called up all his chariots to the Kishon River—nine hundred iron chariots!—along with all his troops who were with him at Harosheth Haggoyim.

14 Deborah said to Barak, "Charge! This very day God has given you victory over Sisera. Isn't God marching before you?"

Barak charged down the slopes of Mount Tabor, his ten companies following him.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ God routed Sisera—all those chariots, all those troops!—before Barak. Sisera jumped out of his chariot and ran. Barak chased the chariots and troops all the way to Harosheth Haggoyim. Sisera’s entire fighting force was killed—not one man left.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Meanwhile Sisera, running for his life, headed for the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite. Jabin king of Hazor and Heber the Kenite were on good terms with one another. Jael stepped out to meet Sisera and said, “Come in, sir. Stay here with me. Don’t be afraid.”

So he went with her into her tent. She covered him with a blanket.

¹⁹ He said to her, “Please, a little water. I’m thirsty.”

She opened a bottle of milk, gave him a drink, and then covered him up again.

²⁰ He then said, “Stand at the tent flap. If anyone comes by and asks you, ‘Is there anyone here?’ tell him, ‘No, not a soul.’”

²¹ Then while he was fast asleep from exhaustion, Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg and hammer, tiptoed toward him, and drove the tent peg through his temple and all the way into the ground. He convulsed and died.

²² Barak arrived in pursuit of Sisera. Jael went out to greet him. She said, “Come, I’ll show you the man you’re looking for.” He went with her and there he was—Sisera, stretched out, dead, with a tent peg through his temple.

²³⁻²⁴ On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the People of Israel. The People of Israel pressed harder and harder on Jabin king of Canaan until there was nothing left of him.

5 That day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

2

When they let down their hair in Israel,
they let it blow wild in the wind.
The people volunteered with abandon,
bless God!

3

Hear O kings! Listen O princes!
To God, yes to God, I'll sing,
Make music to God,
to the God of Israel.

4-5

God, when you left Seir,
marched across the fields of Edom,
Earth quaked, yes, the skies poured rain,
oh, the clouds made rivers.
Mountains leapt before God, the Sinai God,
before God, the God of Israel.

6-8

In the time of Shamgar son of Anath,
and in the time of Jael,
Public roads were abandoned,
travelers went by backroads.
Warriors became fat and sloppy,
no fight left in them.
Then you, Deborah, rose up;
you got up, a mother in Israel.
God chose new leaders,
who then fought at the gates.
And not a shield or spear to be seen
among the forty companies of Israel.

9

Lift your hearts high, O Israel,
with abandon, volunteering yourselves with the people—bless God!

* * *

10-11

You who ride on prize donkeys
comfortably mounted on blankets
And you who walk down the roads,
ponder, attend!
Gather at the town well
and listen to them sing,
Chanting the tale of God's victories,
his victories accomplished in Israel.
Then the people of God
went down to the city gates.

12

Wake up, wake up, Deborah!
Wake up, wake up, sing a song!
On your feet, Barak!
Take your prisoners, son of Abinoam!

* * *

13-18

Then the remnant went down to greet the brave ones.
The people of God joined the mighty ones.
The captains from Ephraim came to the valley,
behind you, Benjamin, with your troops.
Captains marched down from Makir,
from Zebulun high-ranking leaders came down.
Issachar's princes rallied to Deborah,
Issachar stood fast with Barak,
backing him up on the field of battle.
But in Reuben's divisions there was much second-guessing.
Why all those campfire discussions?
Diverted and distracted,
Reuben's divisions couldn't make up their minds.
Gilead played it safe across the Jordan,
and Dan, why did he go off sailing?
Asher kept his distance on the seacoast,
safe and secure in his harbors.
But Zebulun risked life and limb, defied death,
as did Naphtali on the battle heights.

19-23

The kings came, they fought,
the kings of Canaan fought.
At Taanach they fought, at Megiddo's brook,
but they took no silver, no plunder.
The stars in the sky joined the fight,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.
The torrent Kishon swept them away,
the torrent attacked them, the torrent Kishon.
Oh, you'll stomp on the necks of the strong!
Then the hoofs of the horses pounded,
charging, stampeding stallions.
"Curse Meroz," says God's angel.
"Curse, double curse, its people,
Because they didn't come when God needed them,
didn't rally to God's side with valiant fighters."

* * *

24-27

Most blessed of all women is Jael,
wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of homemaking women.
He asked for water,
she brought milk;
In a handsome bowl,
she offered cream.
She grabbed a tent peg in her left hand,
with her right hand she seized a hammer.
She hammered Sisera, she smashed his head,
she drove a hole through his temple.
He slumped at her feet. He fell. He sprawled.
He slumped at her feet. He fell.
Slumped. Fallen. Dead.

* * *

28-30

Sisera's mother waited at the window,
a weary, anxious watch.
"What's keeping his chariot?
What delays his chariot's rumble?"
The wisest of her ladies-in-waiting answers
with calm, reassuring words,
"Don't you think they're busy at plunder,
dividing up the loot?
A girl, maybe two girls,
for each man,
And for Sisera a bright silk shirt,
a prize, fancy silk shirt!
And a colorful scarf—make it two scarves—
to grace the neck of the plunderer."

* * *

31

Thus may all God's enemies perish,
while his lovers be like the unclouded sun.

The land was quiet for forty years.

Sister Megan Rice, Fierce Critic of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal, Dies at 91

Sister Megan Rice, a Roman Catholic nun who was arrested more than 40 times for protesting America's military industrial complex, most spectacularly for breaking into one of the world's largest uranium storage sites, died on Oct. 10 at the residence of her religious order in Rosemont, Pa. She was 91.

Her order, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, said in a statement that the cause was congestive heart failure.

Sister Rice was a leading figure among antiwar activists, especially the cohort of nuns and priests who saw protesting nuclear weapons as part of their religious calling.

She was already 82 when, in 2012, she and two other antinuclear activists, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli, hiked through the night over a steep ridge to the outskirts of the [Y-12 National Security Complex](#) in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

They used bolt cutters to get through three rings of barbed wire and approached the complex's newest storage building, a windowless white-concrete hulk that had been billed as the "Fort Knox of uranium."

They splashed blood against the walls and spray-painted slogans like, "The fruit of justice is peace" and "Woe to an empire of blood." They lit candles and read an "indictment" against the American nuclear arsenal.

They were surprised at how lax the security was. Several of the cameras that should have captured their approach were broken or turned off, and it took almost half an hour before a single guard approached them. When he did, they broke a loaf of bread and offered him a piece. He refused.

The three activists were arrested and charged with trespassing and "destruction and depredation" of government property. When they refused to plead guilty, prosecutors added a charge of sabotage, carrying up to 20 years in prison.

"Please have no leniency on me," Sister Rice said during the trial. "To remain in prison for the rest of my life would be the greatest honor you could give me."

They served just two years and were released after an appeals court vacated the sabotage convictions — though Sister Rice said she would have gladly stayed in prison longer.

"It would be an honor," she [told a reporter for The New York Times](#) soon after her release in 2015. "Good Lord, what would be better than to die in prison for the antinuclear cause?"

The episode at the nuclear complex was just one of many efforts by Sister Rice to take on the American military, a career that led to some 40 arrests — even she lost count — going back to the 1980s. And it was the capstone to a life steeped in progressive Catholicism.

Megan Gillespie Rice, who pronounced her first name MEE-gan, was born on Jan. 31, 1930, in the Morningside Heights section of Manhattan, to a family deeply involved in the Catholic progressive movement. Her father, Frederick Rice, was an obstetrician-gynecologist, and her mother, Madeleine Newman Hooke Rice, was a homemaker who later received a doctorate in history from Columbia.

Both of her parents were active in the Catholic worker movement and were close friends with its founder, [Dorothy Day](#), who Sister Rice remembered visiting her family's home in Morningside Heights.

Morningside Heights, home to Columbia University and venerable religious institutions like Riverside Church and Union Theological Seminary, was fertile ground for Sister Rice's religious awakening. Father George Barry Ford, a leader in New York's civil rights movement, preached at Corpus Christi Church on Columbia's campus, where her family worshiped, and ran her elementary school.

Megan joined the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1947 and took her final vows in 1955. She studied biology at Villanova University, and received a master's degree in cellular biology from Boston College. She then moved to Africa, where she taught in elementary and secondary schools in Nigeria and Ghana.

She leaves no immediate survivors.

Starting in the 1980s, she made frequent trips to the United States, often to participate in antiwar actions.

Sister Rice left Africa for good in 2003. Two years later she moved to Nevada, where she joined an antiwar organization called the [Nevada Desert Experience](#). She was arrested in 2009 during a protest against a missile test at Vandenberg Air Force Base (now Vandenberg Space Force Base) in California, and in 2011 for trespassing on Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, home to the country's drone warfare program.

She traveled to Tacoma, Wash., in 2011 to observe the trial of several antiwar activists, including [Sister Anne Montgomery](#), an 84-year-old nun, for trespassing on a nuclear submarine base. The trial inspired Sister Rice to plan a similar action of her own.

The protest at Y-12, a year later, made Sister Rice an international celebrity, and she used the spotlight to bring renewed attention to America's efforts to modernize its nuclear arsenal.

"Sister Megan's only regret about Y-12 was that she didn't do something like that earlier," said Carole Sargent, the author of the forthcoming book "Transform Now Plowshares: Megan Rice, Gregory Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli."

The complex shut down for two weeks, and Sister Rice's incursion spawned Congressional hearings, where representatives thanked her for calling attention to the site's poor security.

"That young lady there brought a Holy Bible," said Representative Joe Barton, Republican of Texas. "If she had been a terrorist, the Lord only knows what would have happened."

It was not the response Sister Rice was hoping for, but it didn't stop her. After her release, she continued her antiwar activism, joining regular demonstrations outside the White House and the Pentagon.

Spending on nuclear weapons, [she said in a 2019 interview](#) is "one of the root causes of, say, poverty in the United States, and therefore of crime. "It's a root cause of many other issues because so much money is going into them."

LINKS

https://griersmusings.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/5136295_900.jpg?w=500

https://static01.nyt.com/images/2021/10/16/obituaries/16RICE/merlin_59826380_d0f594c4-f547-4143-aa1b-f25a42b072db-superJumbo.jpg?quality=75&auto=webp

You Tube:

[The nun who broke into a US nuclear-weapons facility](#)