

No. 27 Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous! (Symposium)
 -Not the Inhabitants of Meroz, But Jael

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

A TIME THAT REQUIRED COURAGE (2 min.)

Early in the period of the Judges, Israel was "harshly oppressed" for 20 years by Canaanite King Jabin (Jg 4:1-3)

Jehovah selected Barak to fight Jabin and Sisera (Jg 4:6, 7)

Barak assembled an army of 10,000 volunteers

Gathering at Mount Tabor, they went out against Sisera's army

Jehovah threw Sisera's camp into confusion; torrential rains

rendered Sisera's 900 war chariots useless (Jg 5:19-21)

While Barak and his men destroyed the enemy forces, Sisera escaped on foot (Jg 4:15, 16)

He fled north toward Kedesh to the encampment of Heber the Kenite and his wife, Jael (Jg 4:17)

A TIME OF DECISION (3 min.)

In the song praising God for this stunning victory, the inhabitants of Meroz are cursed because "they did not come to the assistance of Jehovah" [Read Judges 5:23]

It could be that they chose not to assist Barak in the actual fight

Or perhaps they could have detained Sisera as he passed through

Meroz alone and desperate (w17.04 30 ¶11)

In any case, they failed to act at that critical moment, and indifference won out over decisiveness

When Sisera arrived at her tent, Jael too was faced with a choice Perhaps Sisera thought he would find refuge in Heber's neutral encampment

Jael had to decide whether she would support her husband, who had been at peace with Jabin, or "come to the assistance of Jehovah" (w15 8/1 15 ¶2)

How her *decisive action* stands in sharp contrast with the indifference of the inhabitants of Meroz! (Jg 4:18-21; 5:26)

The lesson? Be decisive and courageous when opportunities present themselves to act for Jehovah and assist your brothers

In the following dramatization, a young sister is faced with a decision about whether to speak up on behalf of Jehovah or not

VIDEO (2 min.)

A TIME TO ACT (1 min.)

Like Jael and the inhabitants of Meroz, we may suddenly be presented with a situation that calls for courageous action

How we respond depends on our faith and the depth of our love for Jehovah

Have confidence that Jehovah blesses such courage! (Jg 5:24)

Let us give our attention to Brother _____ as he presents the next part of this symposium, "Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous-Not the False Prophets, But Micaiah"

TO BE COVERED IN 8 MINUTES