

Hebrews 11:32

KJV	International Children's Bible	English Standard Version
³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:	³² Do I need to give more examples? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets.	³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

And what shall I more say? – The author of Hebrews is asking whether he has provided enough examples of those who lived by faith. You and I may not be familiar with the following names, but these new Christian Jews would have been very aware of their history. Because his audience knew the history, it was easy for him to rattle off these names, knowing that their descendants would know of them.

For the time would fail me to tell – The author explains that he doesn't have enough time to explain the individual acts of faithfulness in the detail as he provided in the previous verses. We are going to go through each. However, when reading their stories, you might question why they are declared faithful.

The first four - Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah - lived in the time of judges leading the Israelites before they had kings in Judges. Judges Chapters 4 - 16. It is important to understand society at that time. There is a phrase repeated in Judges that reflects the status of God's chosen people - Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; and 21:25. What is the common phrase in each verse? _____

Write down 1 Chronicles 29:11 _____

God even explains the rebellion of the Israelites in 1 Samuel 8:7. _____

God has the writer of Hebrew remind us that faithfulness can exist even in a disobedient land with these four men. Another commonality with these men is that each is flawed, but with God each does the impossible.

To tell of Gedeon (Gideon) – We are familiar with Gideon. We know that he was a reluctant leader which reminds us that God readily uses the weak and scared. Let's read Judges 6:1-6, 10-16. Look at verses 6:11, 14 and 16 again and who appears to Gideon? _____. We are reminded on Joshua. Unlike Joshua the people of Israel were oppressed due to their relationship with God. Now, God chooses Gideon. What does this first scene tell us about Gideon?



Wheat (chaff and the grain)



Normal threshing floor



Wine press

Gideon was trying to hide and gather grain food feeding his people. The way he did it doesn't make much sense. The wind is being blocked by the walls of the wine press, so how is the chaff being separated from the grain? Read Psalm 1:4; Matthew 3:12. His heart is in the right place. Instead of dwelling on the test Gideon gave God, let's look at the deeds of Gideon.

This helps us understand 2 Corinthians 12:9. He was considered faithful because he ultimately obeyed God's commands:

- Judges 6:25-27 - destroyed his community's idols and was given a special Hebrew name Jerubbaal, meaning "let Baal compete against him" in Judges 6:32." This name is important.
- Judges 7:2-7, 9-15, 19-22 – trusted God to trim down army to defeat Midianites, relying completely on God's strength rather than human power
- Judges 8:22-23 – refused to rule as king and redirected the people to God

Unfortunately, Gideon allowed power and success to expose his moral drift from God.

- Judges 8:24-27 – He stumbles badly. He requests gold earrings and ends up with about 43 pounds that he constructs an elaborate ephod. The state of religion in Israel is so awful that soon this ephod became an object of worship, not only for the nation of Israel but even for Gideon's family. The last fact we know of Gideon is that he created an idol that the people worshiped.
- Judges 8:30-35 – had 70 sons from his many wives and was soon forgotten by the Israelites. Gideon had so many sons because, having achieved wealth and status, he took many wives and concubines like the other regional rulers. Judges 9:1-6 records how one son, Abimelech, born of one of the concubines, murders 69 (or 70 depending on whether Jotham was from a wife or a concubine) of his brothers and plunges Israel into civil war between him and Jotham. The episode demonstrates God's reporting of facts, man's tendency toward self-exaltation, and our great need for a perfect, risen Deliverer.



Still, God allows Gideon to be used as an object of faith. What do you think this tells us?

God constantly goes before His people. He will not put you in or allow a circumstance that He does not already know the outcome.

And of Barak – We have familiarity with Deborah, but we don't think of Barak as being faithful. We meet him in Judges Chapter 4. The first verse tells us the state of Israel. Verse 2 provides the results of that state. The same results apply to us as well. We are not exempt from God's punishment for disobedience because we are Christians.

Paraphrase Hebrews 12:7-8 _____



Let's look back on common themes in the fight against the Canaanites. Idolatry was a problem for Gideon, by contrast Barak dealt with the people being oppressed by King Jabin and his army commander Sisera. Most of the Israelites soldiers were just foot soldiers.



The Israelites cried out to God because of the chariots of iron. Look at Judges 1:19, 4:3; and 4:13.

- Judges 4:6-7 – God had commanded him to gather 10,000 men from the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali and go to Mount Tabor to fight the Jabin army with its chariots of iron. Who told Barak his mission? _____ How do we know?
-

This infers of Barak's relationship with God. God often brings confirmation when He speaks to us, especially if what we believe He wants us to do will affect other people.

- Judges 4:8 – Barak told Deborah he would not lead unless she accompanied him, putting more faith in her (a human) instead of in God. It wasn't unwise of Barak to ask Deborah to come with him. The fact that he demanded it showed that he trusted more in Deborah's relationship with God than with his own relationship with God. He refused to do what God wanted him to do without her. This was Barak's failure of faith. Fear of failure had blinded him to the real Source of strength.

Paraphrase Psalm 32:8 _____

- Judges 4:9 – recognized that Deborah's authority had been given to her by God, so he obeyed a woman, something rare in ancient times. Deborah's prophecy that a woman would get the glory for defeating Sisera happened later. Judges 4:16-22.

Who received praise for defeating Sisera? _____ --- _____

- Judges 4:9 - Barak and all who went with him showed real courage and trust in God to go out against Sisera and his army. They had essentially no weapons to fight against a technologically advanced army (having 900 chariots of iron). In addition, God led them to fight on a plain (by the river Kishon) not the mountains, which gave great advantage to the forces with chariots. He was a man of great courage and had faith that God would intervene on Israel's behalf. Barak led 10,000 men and marched down from Mount Tabor onto open ground, facing a terrifying chariot force despite having virtually no military weapons or armor himself.
- Judges 4:15 explains that the Lord took care of Sisera's army "before" Barak. How this happened is not understood until Chapter 5. It is a song that retells the victory in detail. We know from Judges 5:4-5, 21 that God brought about a flash flood. Those muddy conditions made the heavy chariots of iron a hindrance, not a help in the battle. The song mocks and taunts Sisera's death. See 5:24-31.

Barak acted on faith by going according to Judges 4:14. He didn't know God was going to send a flood. His faith in God was sure because he trusted in Deborah's relationship with God. Barak did like many young Christians. He'll trust in someone else's relationship with God. They want their momma or pastor to pray for them. If they have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, they have a relationship with Him and can pray for themselves. Nevertheless, Barak and the battle with Sisera is another example of God's faithfulness.