

Deborah and Barak

*(Judges 2:7-15, 2:19, Judges 3:5-7,
Judges 4:5)*

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Joshua died when he was 110 years old. After he died, the people of Israel stopped serving God. They became friends with idol worshippers and let their kids marry idol worshippers. Soon the people of Israel were worshipping idols too.



God was angry with his people, so he let their enemies be the bosses over them.



God raised up judges and helped many times to set the people free. But after they were free, the people of Israel would not obey the judge anymore, and went back to worshipping idols.



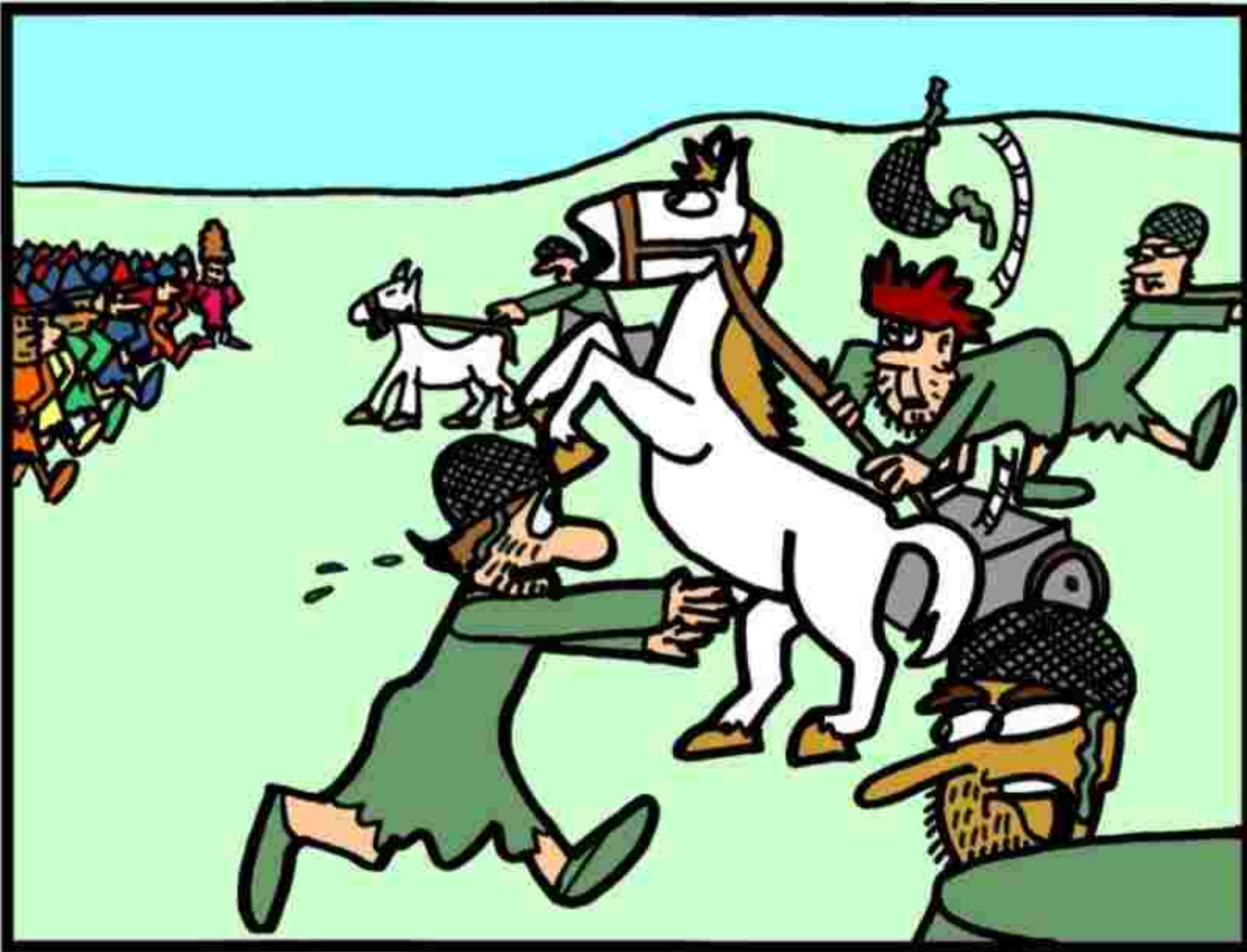
God let Jabin the King of Canaan Land be the boss over the people of Israel. He had 900 chariots of iron. He was very nasty to the people of Israel and they were very afraid of him. His army commander was named Sisera.



At that time a prophetess named Deborah was the judge of Israel. (She was also a wife and mother.) She told Barak the commander of the army of Israel to get ten thousand men ready. “God says he will help you defeat Sisera and his army.”



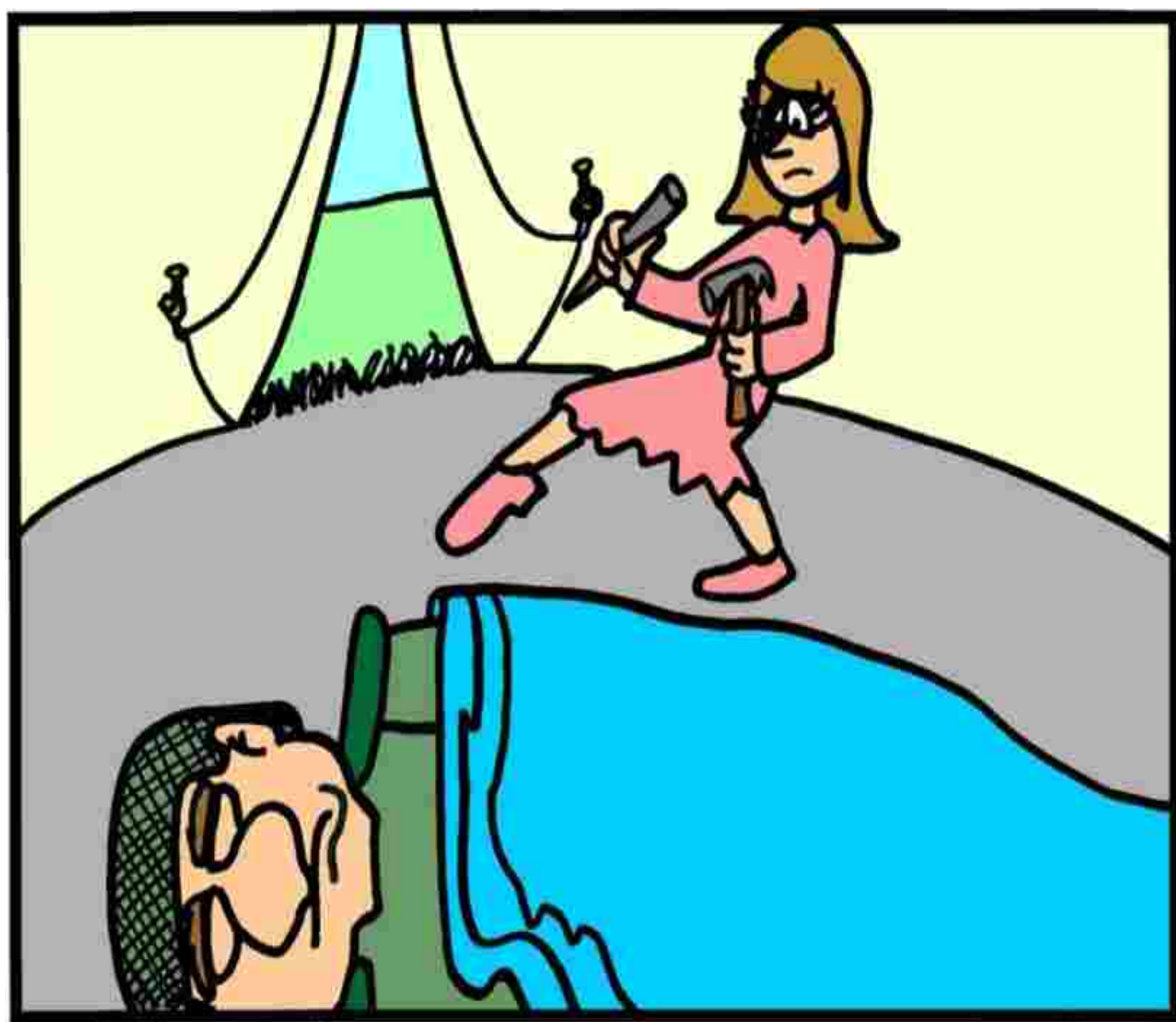
“If you will go with me, then I will go,” answered Barak. “I’ll go with you,” answered Deborah, “but I have to tell you, there will be no glory in this battle for you because God is going to use a woman to get rid of Sisera.”



Barak gathered his men and went to war. God made the enemy agitated and confused, so that they did not fight their best and Barak's army chased after them until all the enemy soldiers were dead.



Sisera ran to the tent of a man named Heber. Heber was a friend of King Jabin. He asked Jael, Heber's wife for a drink of water. She brought milk to him and covered him with a blanket.



While he slept, Jael took a tent peg and hammered it through his head into the ground. This is how he died.



That day God helped the people of Israel, and Deborah and Barak sang a praise song to the Lord.



Lord, help me choose good friends. Help me to be patient and wait for you to send me good friends. I don't want to get into trouble because of bad influences in my life.