

ACT I SCENE 1

(Late June, mid-twelfth century BCE. As the lights go up, DEBORAH, LAPPIDOTH, HULDAH, MOSHE, and a few other VILLAGERS are standing in a group in front of Deborah's house on the outskirts of Bethel)

(MOSHE points stage right as he looks off in the distance)

MOSHE

Look! Someone is coming this way. She looks familiar, and it looks like she is having some difficulty.

(ALL look towards stage right)

(TALIAH enters stage right)

HULDAH

That's my sister's daughter. Moshe, go to her.

(MOSHE moves towards THALIAH. The OTHERS follow him)

MOSHE

Taliah, what happened to you?

TALIAH

Oh uncle Moshe, about fifty armed men attacked our village this morning as we were preparing our morning meal.

LAPPIDOTH

How much damage was done?

TALIAH

I'm not sure. They may have destroyed the entire village. When the men of the village saw that they could not repel the attackers, everyone ran in different directions, but the raiders pursued them and killed anyone they caught: men, women, and children. It was horrible. I was able to reach the woods and hide.

(TALIAH falls sobbing in MOSHE'S arms)

HULDAH

What about the other villagers? What about your mother? Surely you are not the only one to survive.

TALIAH

I do not know about any of the others aunt Huldah. When I looked back from my hiding place, it looked like the entire village was on fire. I was afraid to go back, so I came here. I fear that many of the villagers may be dead.

MOSHE

I will gather some men from Bethel and go search for survivors. Surely others escaped, but they may be injured. Hopefully the other members of your family will still be alive.

DEBORAH

Yesterday, I heard from my cousin that a group of marauders came through her village and killed twelve villagers and set fire to several houses.

HULDAH

I heard a story similar to yours Deborah, except in addition to killing villagers and burning homes, the soldiers also set some of the fields on fire.

LAPPIDOTH

We have been hearing similar reports from villages from here to Kedesh, and especially in Naphtali and Zebulon. Where are these raiders coming from?

MOSHE

I don't know for sure Lappidoth, but I have heard that these marauding bands are heading for Harosheth Haggoyim, the headquarters of General Sisera who serves under Jabin, the king of Hazor. I think Jabin may be responsible for these attacks.

HULDAH

Why would King Jabin want to attack our villages and kill our people? Is he some kind of monster?

MOSHE

Yes, the kind that seeks revenge. When Joshua led our forefathers in the conquest of Canaan, they destroyed the city

of Hazor. Jabin came to Hazor a few years ago and started rebuilding it. It is now a well-fortified city.

LAPPIDOTH

The people of Hazor have been harassing us for several years. Maybe the King of Hazor is no longer content with mere harassment.

MOSHE

I think he may be amassing a large army, and if that is the case, he may be planning to attack and destroy Naphtali and Zebulon and maybe all of Israel.

LAPPIOTH

You may be right, but we need to keep our heads about us. Before we jump to conclusions, we need to know what Jabin's intentions are.

MOSHE

How do you propose we do that?

LAPPIDOTH

We have a spy in the service of General Sisera.

MOSHE

Who is it, and can they be trusted?

LAPPIDOTH

You will find out who it is soon enough, but he can be trusted. He was born a Canaanite, but he is now a worshipper of YAHWEH and his loyalty is to the Israelites.

DEBORAH

My husband is right. We need to remain calm, and we need to know what Jabin is planning, but regardless of whether or not he plans an all-out war, we need to protect ourselves from these unprovoked attacks. Until recently, Hazor's harassment may have inconvenienced us and even cost us some trade, but now it has turned murderous.

HULDAH

To fight off Jabin and his Canaanite force, we are going to need someone who can unite our people and lead an army into battle!

MOSHE

Someone who can deliver us!

DEBORAH

What we need is another judge, and in the past when such a man was needed, the people repented of their sins and ask the Lord to send them a judge. I think we all know too well that in the past few years the people have not followed the Lord's commandments, and they chased after other gods. The time to repent is now. Don't you agree?

LAPPIDOTH

Wholeheartedly!

(LAPPIDOTH pauses as song # 1 starts)

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OH LORD, DELIVER US! DELIVER US WE PRAY.

LAPPIDOTH

PLEASE HEAR OUR CONFESSION AND TAKE OUR OPPRESSION AWAY.

WE HAVE ERRED! WE HAVE ERRED AS WE HAVE BEFORE.

SO PLEASE FORGIVE US! FORGIVE US WE IMPLORE.

WE ARE SO WEAK, AND OFTEN WE CAN'T HELP BUT FAIL

AS WE CHASE AFTER FALSE IDOLS LIKE ASTAROTH AND BAAL,

BUT LORD, PLEASE SEND US A LEADER TODAY AND LET HIM

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

DELIVER US WE PRAY.

OH LORD, SEND US A DELIVERER.

MOSHE

ONE LIKE MOSES WHO CAME BACK FROM THE LAND OF JETHRO

TO DELIVER US FROM THE MIGHTY STRONG HAND OF PHARAOH.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORH, HULDAH

OR LORD, SEND US A LEADER

LAPPIDOTH

LIKE JOSHUA WHO HELPED CONQUER THE LAND

THAT YOU LONG AGO PROMISED TO GIVE OUR FATHER ABRAHAM.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OH LORD, SEND US A DELIVERER.

MOSHE

ONE LIKE OTHNIEL WHO JUDGED US WHEN WE HID IN FEAR,

BUT HE DEFEATED ARAM TO BRING PEACE FOR FORTY YEARS.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OR LORD, SEND US A JUDGE

LAPPIDOTH

LIKE THE MIGHTY EHUD WHO WITH A LEFT JAB

KILLED KING EGLON AND LED US TO WIN OUR FREEDOM FROM MOAB.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OH LORD, SEND US A DELIVERER.

MOSHE

ONE LIKE SHAMGAR WHO FOUGHT IN A WAR THAT DID NOT CEASE

TIL HE KILLED SIX HUNDRED PHILISTINES AND BROUGHT US PEACE.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OH LORD, PLEASE SEND US A DELIVERER

LAPPIDOTH

AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEFORE

TO FREE US FROM ALL THE OPPRESSION AT THE HANDS OF HAZOR.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

OH LORD, DELIVER US! DELIVER US WE PRAY.

MOSHE

PLEASE HEAR OUR CONFESSION AND TAKE OUR OPPRESSION AWAY.

WE HAVE ERRED! WE HAVE ERRED AS WE HAVE BEFORE.

SO PLEASE FORGIVE US! FORGIVE US WE IMPLORE.

WE ARE SO WEAK, AND OFTEN WE CAN'T HELP BUT FAIL

AS WE CHASE AFTER FALSE IDOLS LIKE ASTAROTH AND BAAL,

BUT LORD,

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

PLEASE SEND US A LEADER TODAY

LAPPIDOTH

AND LET HIM DELIVER US WE PRAY.

LAPPIDOTH, MOSHE, DEBORAH, HULDAH

DELIVER US WE PRAY

LAPPIDOTH

We need to spread this message throughout Israel. Let's petition all of Israel to set aside one week from today as a day for the people to fast, repent, and call upon the Lord to help us. If we are sincere, perhaps the Lord will hear our prayers and send someone to lead us in our fight with Jabin.

(Everyone nods their head in agreement)

(Lights go down)

ACT I Scene 2

(Later that same afternoon, as the lights come up, General SISERA, and KERET are standing in front of King JABIN seated in a chair at Sisera's headquarters in Harosheth Haggoyim. YASSIB is standing off to the side with a tray of drinks.)

JABIN

Commanders, it is good to see you all here. General Sisera, how is the call to arms for our war against the Israelites going?

SISERA

Everything is going as planned. We are staging the army here where my charioteers are stationed.

(SISERA turns to KERET on his right)

Keret is my second in command. Keret, give King Jabin a status report on the cavalry and foot soldiers?

KERET

Over half of the cavalry have arrived. The remainder should be here within two to three weeks. The infantry have been arriving thirty or forty at a time. As you requested, they have been raiding and looting along the way. In fact, they have encountered very little resistance. This makes me wonder why do

we even need such a large army? It seems like a much smaller force would be sufficient to defeat the Israelites.

JABIN

(With anger in his voice)

I do not want to just defeat them. I want to annihilate them for what they did to Hazor in the time of my grandfather.

(JABIN pauses as song # 2 begins)

JABIN

AMONG THE OLD CITIES OF CANAAN, HAZOR WAS A DELIGHT,
TIL IT WAS DESTROYED BY THE ISRAELITES.
LIKE A LARGE HORDE OF LOCUS THEY CAME ON IN A SWARM.
THEY DEFEATED OUR ARMY BY THE WATERS OF MEROM.
AT DAWN, THEY ATTACKED THE CITY, WHILE THE SUN WAS AT THEIR
BACK.
OUR PEOPLE FOUGHT HARD, BUT THEY COULD NOT REPEL THE
ATTACK.

JABIN, SISERA

THREE SCORE YEARS AGO THEY DESTROYED OUR CITY.

JABIN

I REBUILT IT, AND I WILL SHOW NO PITY.
MY LARGE ARMY IS SURE TO PUT THEM ON THE RUN,
AND THEN I WILL CRUSH THE PEOPLE OF THE SON OF NUN.

JABIN, SISERA

THEY WILL RUN, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HIDE.
IN SACK CLOTH AND ASHES THEY WILL MOAN AND CRY

JABIN

I WILL SMITE THEM ALL, THE RICH AND THE POOR.
I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE I AM JABIN, THE KING OF HAZOR.
MY GRANDFATHER, ALSO NAMED JABIN, WAS THE KING AT THE TIME.
WHEN HE WAS KILLED, MY FATHER WAS LEFT THE NEXT IN LINE.
JUST WHEN IT ALL SEEMED TO BE HOPELESS, MY FATHER FLED.
THE CITY WAS LEFT IN RUINS AND THE PEOPLE WERE DEAD.
THE RAIDERS HAVE GROWN WEAK, AND WE HARRASS AND ENSLAVE
THEM NOW.
WE HAVE GROWN STRONGER! WE WILL DESTROY THEM. THIS IS MY
VOW.

JABIN, SISERA

THREE SCORE YEARS AGO THEY DESTROYED OUR CITY.

JABIN

I REBUILT IT, AND I WILL SHOW NO PITY.
MY LARGE ARMY IS SURE TO PUT THEM ON THE RUN,
AND THEN I WILL CRUSH THE PEOPLE OF THE SON OF NUN.

JABIN, SISERA

THEY WILL RUN, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HIDE.
IN SACK CLOTH AND ASHES THEY WILL MOAN AND CRY

JABIN

I WILL SMITE THEM ALL, THE RICH AND THE POOR.

I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE I AM JABIN, THE KING OF HAZOR.

YES, I WILL GET MY REVENGE. I AM JABIN,

JABIN, SISERA

THE KING OF HAZOR

KERET

Okay, I understand now. We are to completely remove the Hebrews from the lands that once belonged to Hazor.

JABIN

Yes, that is what I want. Total annihilation. Sisera, how long before the entire army can be assembled here?

SISERA

(SISERA turns to face KERET)

I think two months should be sufficient time to gather the men and train the different units to work together. Do you agree?

(KERET nods yes in agreement)

JABIN

(JABIN stares directly at SISERA)

Good! In two complete cycles of the moon I want the entire army to be here and ready to go to battle. At that time we will be at the height of the dry season. I want you to build your attack

around your chariots. The Israelites do not have a single chariot, and the sight of nearly one thousand on our side should send a shock wave over our enemies. Do you have a specific plan of attack in mind?

SISERA

From here, we will descend the slopes of Mount Carmel onto the Esdraelon Plain. As we sweep across the plain, we will destroy any resistance that we may encounter. Once we reach Mount Tabor at the other end of the plain, we will split our forces. I will take half of the army and move north, wiping out all Israelite strongholds from there to Kedesh. We will then have reclaimed all of the territory within the old borders of Hazor. The other half of our army, led by Commander Keret, will move south and drive the Israelites out from other parts of Canaan.

JABIN

Your plan sounds solid. Now let's drink a toast to Baal.

SISERA

Yassib, serve the drinks.

(YASSIB offers the drink tray to the three of them,
and each takes a glass)

(JABIN raises his glass)

JABIN

To Hazor.

(SISERA and KERET raise their glasses)

SISERA, KERET

To our success.

(ALL THREE drink from their glasses)

JABIN

I will be back here in two months.

(Lights go down)

ACT I, Scene 3

(Midmorning one week later. As the lights go up, DEBORAH and HULDAH stand near a palm tree off the side of the road between Bethel and Ramah)

DEBORAH

Since we are women and cannot even approach the part of the tabernacle where the mercy seat of YAHWAH is located, I think this is the place where we should offer up prayers to the Lord asking Him to send us someone who can deliver us from Jabin's tyranny.

HULDAH

What's so special about this place?

DEBORAH

My grandfather told me that this is where the Arc of the Covenant rested while the tabernacle was being erected in Bethel.

HULDAH

If that is true, then this is about as close to holy ground as we women will be ever allowed to approach.

DEBORAH

I am sure that it is true. My grandfather was one of the men who helped guard the Ark of the Covenant until the tabernacle was

being constructed.

HULDAH

Okay, I agree. I do not think we will find any better place to offer prayers to the Lord.

(Both women fall to their knees and begin to pray in silence with their eyes closed)

(The lights go down for a few seconds)

(As the lights go back up, a being dressed in white has appeared stage right)

(DEBORAH opens her eyes and touches HULDAH'S arm)

DEBORAH

Huldah, do you have any idea what time it is?

HULDAH

(HULDAH looks up at the sun)

It must be mid-afternoon. We have been praying for at least four hours.

(HULDAH turns her head stage right, sees the newcomer and points at the unfamiliar being)

HULDAH

Look! Someone else is here.

(DEBORAH looks stage right and a look of concern crosses her face)

DEBORAH

Who are you and what are you doing here?

GALADREL

Do not be afraid. I am the angel Galadrel. I am from the Lord most high, and He sent me here in response to you and your people's prayers.

HULDAH

Does that mean he has chosen someone as judge to deliver us from King Jabin's hand?

GALADREL

Yes, someone has been chosen.

DEBORAH, HULDAH

(In unison)

Who is it?

(GALADREL pauses as the song # 3 begins)

GALADREL

GOD HAS HEARD HIS PEOPLE'S CRY FOR A DELIVERER,
SOMEONE TO FREE THEM AND BE THEIR NEXT LAW GIVER.
THEY WANT A LEADER WHO IS HONEST AND FULL OF MIRTH,
SOMEONE THE PEOPLE CAN TALK TO, SOMEONE WHO'S DOWN TO
EARTH.
THEY WANT A COMMANDER WHO WILL NOT HIDE BEHIND THEIR FEARS,
SOMEONE WHO WILL NOT BE BEGUILED BY A LOT OF TEARS.

THEY WANT A WARRIOR CHIEF TO LEAD THEM AS THEIR NEXT JUDGE,
ONE WITH THE COURAGE TO FACE GREAT ODDS AND NOT BUDGE.

WITH THIS IN MIND THE LORD LOOKED HARD AT ALL THE HEBREW
MALES

BUT AS A JUDGE EVERY MAN AMONG THEM WAS DOOMED TO FAIL.

THEY LACKED SUFFICIENT RIGHTEOUSNESS, AT LEAST IN GOD'S
SIGHT,

AND NONE HAD THE COURAGE TO STAND AGAINST THE ODDS IN A
FIGHT.

SO ONE BY ONE GOD ELIMINATED EACH MALE HEBREW

BECAUSE NOT ONE OF THEM HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO SEE THE JOB
THROUGH.

BUT THE PEOPLE STILL NEEDED A JUDGE, AND THE RIGHT WOMAN
WOULD DO WELL,

SO THE LORD SAID DEBORAH, YOU'RE THE NEXT JUDGE OF ISRAEL.

HALLELUJAH LORD! HALLELUJAH! TO JUDGE ISRAEL YOU CHOSE A
WIFE AND MOTHER,

AND OF ALL THE WOMEN BEFORE HER, SHE IS LIKE NO OTHER.

HALLELUJAH LORD! HALLELUJAH! WHEN THE RIGHT MAN COULD NOT
BE FOUND,

YOU NAMED A WIFE AND MOTHER WHO COULD WALK ON THE HIGH
GROUND.

HALLELUJAH LORD! HALLELUJAH! WHEN YOU LOOKED FOR THE

NECESSARY TRAITS,
YOU FOUND A WIFE AND MOTHER WAS THE ONLY VIABLE CANDIDATE.
TO FIND A JUDGE, THE LORD LOOKED AT ALL THE HEBREW MALES,
BUT HE CHOSE A WOMAN TO JUDGE BECAUSE THE MEN ALL FAILED.
THE WOMAN HAS SUFFICIENT RIGHTEOUSNESS, IN GOD'S SIGHT,
AND SHE HAS THE COURAGE TO STAND AGAINST THE ODDS IN A
FIGHT.

SO AFTER GOD HAD ELIMINATED EACH MALE HEBREW
HE CHOSE A WOMAN THAT HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO SEE THE JOB
THROUGH.

WHEN THE PEOPLE STILL NEEDED A JUDGE, AND THE RIGHT WOMAN
WOULD DO WELL,

THE GOOD LORD SAID DEBORAH, YOU'RE THE NEXT JUDGE OF
ISRAEL.

OH YES DEBORAH, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT JUDGE OF
ISRAEL.

(HULDAH quietly exits stage right)

DEBORAH

Are you sure you have the right Deborah? As you said, I am a
wife and mother. I am not a male and I am certainly no warrior.

Israel has never been led by a woman. Surely the Lord could find a man who is better suited for the task.

GALADREL

The Lord looked at all of the men in Israel, and not one of them has the faith in the Lord that you have. He looked into the hearts of all of the people of Israel, and He chose you.

DEBORAH

I am willing to serve the Lord in any way He desires, and if that means serving as a judge of the people of Israel, then I am ready to fulfill that roll. That means that I will most likely have to lead the people in a war against Jabin's army. So my biggest concern is will the men of Israel follow a woman into battle.

GALADREL

Some will, and some probably will not, but the Lord says that regardless of how few or how many men will follow you, He will be at your side. He also said you should ask General Barak to help you build and lead an army.

DEBORAH

Who is General Barak?

GALADREL

He is commander of the garrison at Kedesh.

DEBORAH

Will he be willing to join forces if he has to take orders from a woman?

GALADREL

He won't like it, and he can be as stubborn as a donkey, but it's up to you to persuade him to do so.

DEBORAH

I have never had much luck in dealing with recalcitrant donkeys, animal or human, but I will do the best I can. I better hurry back to Bethel to let my family and friends know what has happened.

GALADREL

Your friend Huldah is taking care of that.

(Lights go down)

ACT I, Scene 4

(One hour later. As the lights go up,
LAPPIDOTH, HULDAH, and a few other villagers
are standing in a group in front of
Deborah's house on the outskirts of Bethel)

(DEBORAH enters stage right)

DEBORAH

Since I see Huldah is here, I assume that you have heard what
just happened.

(LAPPIDOTH puts his arm around DEBRAH'S neck and gives
her a kiss on the cheek)

LAPPIDOTH

Yes! She told us about your encounter with a messenger from the
Lord, and we are all very excited. I am so glad that the Lord
answered our call for a judge, but I must say that I am
surprised that He chose a woman.

DEBORAH

Do you have a problem with that Lappidoth?

LAPPIDOTH

No, not one bit, especially since that woman is you.

(LAPPIDOTH pauses as song # 4 begins)

LAPPIDOTH

OH WIFE OF MINE, I AM SO PROUD OF YOU.

THE LORD BELIEVES THAT YOU CAN SEE US THROUGH
TO WIN THE BATTLES WE FIGHT AGAINST THIS OPPRESSION
AND PERHAPS EVEN TEACH A DESPOT KING A LESSON.
THE LORD'S OUR ONLY KING, AND WHEN HE CANNOT FIND JUST THE
RIGHT MAN

WHO CAN LEAD HIS TROUBLED PEOPLE,

LAPPIDOTH and VILLAGERS

HE KNOWS A WOMAN WHO CAN.

WHEN A MAN CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN WHO CAN,

LAPPIDOTH

A WOMAN WHO WILL STEP UP AND BRAVELY LEAD HER CLAN.

A WOMAN WHO WILL JUDGE FAIRLY AND NOT TRY TO OVER REACH,
AND IN TIMES OF DANGER BE WILLING TO STEP INTO THE BREACH.

A WOMAN, WHO IN TIMES OF BATTLE WON'T TRY TO RUN AND HIDE
BECAUSE SHE KNOWS THE LORD IS FIGHTING THERE BY HER SIDE.

IT HAS BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN,

LAPPIDOTH AND VILLAGERS

WHEN A MAN CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN WHO CAN.

LAPPIDOTH

LIKE A SHEPHERD, YOU HAVE A FLOCK TO KEEP,

AND THE PEOPLE WILL BE HELPLESS AS SHEEP.

YOU MUST SHOW THEM THAT YOU ARE AS STRONG AS ANY MALE
AND THAT WITH THE LORD BESIDE THEM, THEY CANNOT FAIL.

LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT WHEN TROUBLE JUMPS TO THE FIRE
FROM THE PAN,
AND THERE'S NOT A MAN TO STOP IT,

LAPPIDOTH AND VILLAGERS

THERE IS A WOMAN WHO CAN.

LAPPIDOTH

WHEN A MAN CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN WHO CAN,
A WOMAN WHO WILL STEP UP AND BRAVELY LEAD HER CLAN.
A WOMAN WHO WILL JUDGE FAIRLY AND NOT TRY TO OVER REACH,
AND IN TIMES OF DANGER BE WILLING TO STEP INTO THE BREACH.
A WOMAN, WHO IN TIMES OF BATTLE WON'T TRY TO RUN AND HIDE
BECAUSE SHE KNOWS THE LORD IS FIGHTING THERE BY HER SIDE.
IT HAS BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN,

LAPPIDOTH AND VILLAGERS

WHEN A MAN CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN WHO CAN.
WHEN A MAN CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN WHO CAN.
A WOMAN CAN.

DEBORAH

I am glad you feel that way. I asked the angel if the men would follow a woman. The angel said for me not to worry about it because with the Lord's help, I would have all of the support I need. So, I am not worried about raising an army, but I am worried about the children.

LAPPIDOTH

What do you mean?

DEBORAH

I am afraid that there will be times when I cannot give them the attention that I have in the past.

LAPPIDOTH

Don't worry about them. They are not babies anymore. Joseph is eleven and Hanna is nine. They can take care of themselves when you are too busy to tend to them. Besides, the times when you are busy dealing with the problems of our people, I will make sure that the children are well taken care of.

DEBORAH

Thanks Lappidoth. That takes a load off of my mind. It is good to know that you are my strongest supporter, and with you and the Lord on my side, I do not see how I can fail. Now, down to the immediate problems of our people. Can you and a couple of men set up a tent under the palm tree where I received the Lord's message? I do not know if it is sacred ground or not, but it is special to me. I have decided that is where I will make decisions and settle disputes concerning the Israelites.

LAPPIDOTH

Sure! We will set it up tomorrow.

DEBORAH

Next, we need to let the people know that the Lord has chosen me to judge Israel.

LAPPIDOTH

I have already taken care of that. As soon as Huldah brought us the news, I sent Moshe and two others to spread the word. They will visit all of the nearby villages, and then each of them will send messengers to other villages, and so on. Within, a few days, all of Israel will know about your appointment as judge.

DEBORAH

Good! Since we are likely to have to go war with Jabin, I need someone to go immediately to Kedesh in Naphtali and bring Barack, son of Abinoam, to meet with me. He is probably our most experienced military leader. I just hope he agrees to lead our army.

LAPPIDOTH

I served under General Barak several years ago. He seemed like a very competent leader. What makes you think he won't be up to the task?

DEBORAH

It's just a feeling I have. The Lord's messenger inferred that it will be my responsibility to convince Barak to join us. That

makes me think that he may be somewhat less than willing to lead our army.

LAPPIDOTH

I will get a messenger started on the road to Kedesh this evening, and I hope you are wrong about Barak.

DEBORAH

I hope I am too, but now for the riskiest task. Someone needs to contact our spy at Sisera's headquarters and tell him I need to meet with him. We need to know what Jabin is planning.

LAPPIDOTH

One of our vegetable merchants will be going to Harosheth Haggoyim tomorrow. The person you seek always comes to the market to buy food for Sisera's table. The merchant will give him your message.

DEBORAH

Tell the messenger to Kedesh to tell Barak and the vegetable merchant to tell our spy that they are to meet me in seven days in the tent under the palm tree.

(Lights go down