

Judges 5:19-31
Deborah & Barak Celebrate Victory

19-23 The Battle

24-27 In Praise of Jael

28-30 Sisera's mother

Food for Thought

- The real champion of the poem is Israel's _____.
- Among his people, the highest accolades go to two women, _____ and _____.



◀ This black granite inscription (10'x5') is a victory hymn of the Egyptian king Merneptah (1213-1203). It commemorates his campaign into the Levant in 1209.



▲ Following references to Ashkelon, Gezer, and Yanoam, the section pertaining to Israel reads "Israel is devastated, his seed is not." Israel is identified using the "people" determinative rather than the land determinative.

Also, in Egyptian, the names of foreign countries, cities, and provinces are treated syntactically as feminine, but with Israel the masculine pronoun is used, showing that Israel is understood as a collective, a distinct people, not named after any particular territory or city.



◀ Merneptah was the fourth king of the relatively weak 19th Dynasty. He was the thirteenth son of Ramesses II, who ruled for most of the 13th century BC (r. 1279-1213 BC). Merneptah became General of the Army in the 40th year of Ramesses II. In year 55 he was officially proclaimed crown prince.

Merneptah came to the throne only because all of his older brothers had died. He was about 70 years old when he came to the throne, and only ruled for about ten years (1213-1203 BC). In his 5th year he fought a major battle against a combined force of Libyans and Sea Peoples (including Ekwesh, Teresh, Lukka, Sherden, Shekelesh) who were invading from the west.