

Chapter 4

Again the people finning are oppressed, and crying to God, 4. by direction of Debbora a propheteffe, Barac fighteth against Sifara their enemie. 15. Who ftricken with feare, and fleeing away, 17. Iahel pretending his faftie killeth him in her houle.

And the children of Ifrael added to doe euil in the fight of our Lord after the death of Aod, ² and our Lord deliuered them into the handes of Iabin the king of Chanaan, which reigned in Afor: and he had a captaine of his armie named Sifara, and he dwelt in Harofeth of the gentiles. ³ And the children of Ifrael cried to our Lord: for he had nine hundred yron hooked chariottes, and for twentie yeres had vehemently oppreffed them. ⁴ And there was one Debbora a propheteffe the wife of Lapidoth, which ^aiudged the people at that time. ⁵ And fhe fate vnder a palme tree, which was called by her name, betwen Rama and Bethel in the mount of Ephraim: and the children of Ifrael went vp to her for al iudgement. ⁶ Who fent, and called Barac the fonne of Abinoem of Cedes in Nepthali: and fhe faid to him: Our Lord God of Ifrael hath commanded thee, Goe, and lead an armie into mount Thabor, and thou fhalt take with thee ten thoufand fighting men of the children of Nepthali, and of the children of Zabulon: ⁷ and I wil bring vnto thee in the place of the Torrent Cifon, Sifara the prince of the hofte of Iabin, and his chariotes, and al the multitude, and wil deliuer them in thy hand. ⁸ And Barac faid to her: If thou come with me, I wil goe: If thou wilt not come with me, I wil not

^a Being a propheteffe fhe refolued hard and obfcure thinges, but exercifed no iurifdiction in anie caufes, for that belonged to the counfel of Prieftes and of feuentie ancientes, where the high priett was the chief Iudge. *Num. 11. Deut. 17.* Spiritually Debbora fignified the Church & Barac chriftian Princes, who are directed in their warres, and other actions by fpiritual fuperiors, as Origen, and other ancient writers expound this hiftorie.

goe. ⁹ Who said to him: I wil goe in deede with thee, but at this time the victorie shal not be imputed to thee, because Sifara shal be deliuered into the hand of a woman. Debbora therefore arose, and went with Barac into Cedes. ¹⁰ Who calling vnto him Zabulon and Nepthali, went vp with ten thousand fighting men, hauing Debbora in his companie. ¹¹ And Haber the Cineite was in time past departed from the rest of the Cineites his brethren of Hobab, the cousin of Moyse: and had pitched his tentes vnto the valley, which is called Sennim, and was nere Cedes. ¹² And it was told Sifara, that Barac the sonne of Abinoem was gone vp into mount Thabor: ¹³ and he gathered nine hundred yron hooked chariottes, and al his armie from Harofeth of the gentiles to the torrent Cifon. ¹⁴ And Debbora said to Barac: Arise, for this is the day, wherein our Lord hath deliuered Sifara into thy handes: behold he is thy leader. And Barac went downe from mount Thabor, and ten thousand fighting men with him. ¹⁵ And our Lord terrified Sifara, and al his chariotes, and al the multitude in the edge of the sword at the sight of Barac: in so much, that Sifara leaping downe from his chariote, fled a foote, ¹⁶ and Barac pursued the chariotes fleeing, and the armie vnto Harofeth of the gentiles, and al the multitude of the enemies was vtterly destroyed. ¹⁷ But Sifara fleeing came to the tent of Iahel the wife of Haber the Cineite. For there was peace betwixt Iabin the king of Afor, and the house of Haber the Cineite. ¹⁸ Iahel therefore going forth to meete Sifara, said to him: Come in to me my Lord, come in, feare not. Who being entred into her tabernacle, and couered of her with a cloke, ¹⁹ said to her: Geue me, I beseech thee, a litle water, for I am very thirftie. Who opened a bottle of milke, and gaue him to drinke, and couered him. ²⁰ And Sifara said to her: Stand before the doore of the tabernacle, and when any shal come asking thee, and saying: Is there any man here? Thou shalt say: There is none. ²¹ ^a)Iahel therefore the wife of

^a VVho is this woman full of confidence, piercing the temples of the enemies head with a naile, but the faith of the Church destroying

Haber tooke a nayle of the tabernacle, taking withal a hammer also: and going in secretly, and with silence she put the naile vpon the temple of his head, and striking it with the hammer, fastened it into his braine euen to the ground: who ioyning deepe sleepe and death together, fainted, and died. ²² And behold Barac following Sifara came: & Iahel going forth to meete him, said to him: Come, and I wil shew thee the man whom thou seekest. Who when he was entered in vnto her, saw Sifara lying dead, and the nayle fastened in his temples. ²³ Therefore God that day humbled Iabin the king of Chanaan before the children of Israel: ²⁴ which increased daily, and with strong hand oppressed Iabin the king of Chanaan, til they destroyed him.

the diuels kingdomes with the croffe of Chrif? *S. Aug. li. 12. c. 32. cont. Faust. Manich.* Iahel also prefigured our B. Ladie who crushed the serpent's head.