

000471

.....and I brought some other things with me today to read to you. I brought the Encyclopedia Brittanica. I brought the latest issue of TIME magazine, and I brought a little paper which reached me yesterday, entitled Papers Read at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, December 29-30, 1955. I hope I will have time to tell you of all three of them. But our main interest is in the Scriptures, and the others are incidental to it, perhaps illustrative of it. And the passages which I read to you stress these two great heroes of the faith as Hebrews calls them, Barak and Gideon. And we read this statement in connection with Barak, "Curse ye ....1½...., said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they came not to the ehlp of the Lord, to the help of the Lord ~~g~~ against the mighty." And in the verses before that, we read a little about the searching of hearts in these different people who stayed in their ships, or stayed on their farms, and who did not come. Over in connection with Gideon we read about the work of Gideon which is told us in much more detail than that of Barak, and we read about how the men of Succoth resisted, refused to help Gideon, and how the Lord gave them into Gideon's hand, and how Gideon treated them. We only have about three tribes (?) described in back of Gideon. There is a comparatively small group described as actually having come with him. I think in both cases it is doubtless the fact that there were large elements of God's people who were not helping them, elements of God's people which are today forgotten. But Deborrah, or Barak, rather, and Gideon are mentioned in Hebrews as in the catalogue of the heroes of faith. Was it possible for everybody at the time to see that ~~they~~ they were heroes of the faith, ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~that they were~~ It is easy to say, "Now curse ye ....2 3/4...." They came not to the ~~ehlp~~ help of the Lord against the mighty. It is easy to say, Why didn't these men of Succoth help Gideon when he came. I think if we look into the situation a little and take what we read about these men, we will find that they had plenty of ground on which they might question whether they should follow in his work. I can just hear some of them saying, Here's this