

DEBORAH'S PREDICTIONS

In Judges 4 we ^{find} have recorded two very different types of prediction made by Deborah, the prophetess. It would be interesting to go through the predictions in various portions of the Bible, and to see how many fall in each of the two categories.

After she has quoted the command of the Lord, in verse 6, that Barak is to take ten thousand of the Israelites and go to Mount Tabor, in verse 7 Deborah gives the prediction which God makes, that God will draw to ^{Barak} ~~him~~ to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitudes, and that God will deliver Sisera into Barak's hands.

Here is a literal prediction. It contains a matter of considerable importance. Barak can gather great numbers of the Israelites, but they are poorly equipped. Sisera has nine hundred chariots of iron, and, using them in accordance with the commands of Jabin, his king, he has oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Now the Lord has revealed to Deborah a way in which the Israelites can be freed from this oppression and can win the victory despite the far better equipment of Sisera's armies.

The promise is given that if Barak will take this great multitude of the Israelites to Mount Tabor, Sisera will not simply let them stay on Mount Tabor until they run out of food and devote himself with his chariots to ravaging their homes and perhaps injuring their families, nor yet will he simply wait for them to come down from Mount Tabor in order that he can then annihilate them with the lightning like thrusts of his chariot armies. Instead of that he will circle around Mount Tabor toward the south in order to attack them and will come to the river Kishon. God has promised that he will cause this to happen.