

Deborah declares that Sisera will fail to take care to avoid the marshy ground around the river Kishon where, in case of rain, he can easily find his chariots getting bogged down in the mud and rendered useless and his men thus placed at the mercy of the larger number of Israelites afoot.

This, of course, is exactly what happens. We are told in Judges 5:21 that the river Kishon swept him away. The stars in their courses fought against Sisera. God worked on the heart of Sisera so that he would be overconfident and careless and would let his men get into this terrain where they could be destroyed by the sudden attack of the Israelites as they came rushing down from the mountain against them.

Judges 4:13 tells us that Sisera brought his chariots into the area designated. Doubtless after they were in this region, the Lord sent a mighty rain which caused the Kishon to rise and fill the marshland and bog down the chariots. It has been wisely conjectured that Deborah's statement in verse 14: "Is not the Lord gone out before thee?" is calling Barak's attention to the rain which has begun to fall in torrents. Immediately Barak and his hosts of footmen rush down the mountain and hurl themselves against the trapped chariots of Sisera.

The prediction in verse 7 was a literal prediction and was literally fulfilled.

Now we have another prediction in verse 9 of an entirely different nature. Let us look at the background of it.

In verse 8 Barak refuses to take upon himself the responsibility for the fulfillment of the prediction given in verse 7. Barak can easily imagine that he may make a fool of himself and also lose a large part of his army. If he brings the men out and they gather here on Mount Tabor, there is the danger that Sisera will besiege them until they die of starvation or have to surrender and be most cruelly treated by their oppressors.