

to Barak. We cannot be certain, in fact, whether Deborah herself fully understood the purport of the prediction which God enabled her to make.

The prediction in verse 7 might, perhaps, be designated as an organic prediction, since it tells how God is going to perform his work and accomplish his purpose. He is going to deliver the Israelite out of the hands of their oppressors by drawing the oppressors to a position where they are in great danger and can be destroyed by the Israelites. It is a prophecy closely related to the carrying forward of the definite purposes of God.

Now the prediction in verse 9 is of an entirely different type. It is one we might, for want of a better term, perhaps call an incidental prediction. It predicts an incidental fact. After all it does not make a great deal of difference what happens to Sisera. The important thing is that the Israelites are freed from oppression. Sisera is simply the leader of the army of the king who is oppressing them. It really does not matter whether he is deprived of power, driven into exile, or killed, and certainly it does not matter how he is killed. It does not matter whether he is thrown from a chariot by a frantic horse and killed, whether an arrow penetrates his armour, whether he is hit with a club, or whether any one of a number of other causes accounts for his death. It certainly is not important to the progress of the work of God that he alone should escape from the battlefield, that he should come to the tent of a woman who, as far as he knows, is entirely neutral, and should go in there and ask for protection, and that this woman should find herself in a position where she cannot explain the presence of this man in the tent and where she decides to kill him.

So then the prediction that Sisera will be sold by the Lord into the hand of a woman is not one of organic importance to the progress of the work