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THE PREDICTIONS IN JUDGES 4, 7, & 9

In Judges 4:7 we have a prediction which is made by Deborah, the prophetess, as she is speaking to Barak. In verse 6 she begins quoting the word of the Lord, who has said that Barak is to take ten thousand of the Israelites and go to Mount Tabor, and in verse 7 she gives the prediction which God makes, that God will draw to him to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitudes, and that God will deliver him 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 free 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 running down their homes and perhaps injuring their families, nor yet will he wait simply for them to come down from Mount Tabor in order that he can annihilate them with the lightning like thrusts of his chariot armies. Instead of that he will make a circle around Mount Tabor in order to attack them and will come to the river Kishon. God has promised that he will cause this to happen.

Now if Sisera is very careful, of course he will 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 ~~the~~ Israelites afoot.