

which not only shows that victory is to come to the children of Israel but actually explains the way in which the Lord is going to bring it. In Judges 4:6-7 her words are given as follows: "Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward Mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphthali and of the children of Zebulun? And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand."

The plan of battle is here laid out. The Israelites are to gather a great host on Mount Tabor. Deborah predicts that Sisera will then come with his great army of chariots and encamp by the river Kishon southwest of the mountain. There he will be delivered into the hands of Barak. The implication must have been clear to Barak. He must have known from this that Deborah is predicting that Sisera's multitude with their strong chariots, a few of which could so easily overcome a great mass of the poorly equipped Israelite footmen, will be bogged down in mud by the river Kishon as a result of a sudden rain, and thus unable to maneuver. As a result they will be at the mercy of the Israelites. That this is what actually happened is clear in the song of rejoicing which Deborah and Barak sang as recorded in Judges 5. There we read in verses 20 and 21: "They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera. The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon."

Here is a very clever plan of battle. Against the fighting chariots and the fine equipment of the Canaanites, the Israelite footmen are helpless. If the Canaanites, however, are put in a position where their chariots are useless the Israelites with their greater number will then be able to win a victory over them. During the Great War it was found that fifteen minutes' rain on this clay soil rendered cavalry helpless.

Barak, however, is full of misgivings. He believes that Deborah is a prophetess who speaks from the Lord. At the same time he does not feel absolutely confident that the matter will work out the way she said it would. He realizes that Sisera is a man of rather impetuous character. Nevertheless he thinks that perhaps as a result of these years of experience, Sisera has learned caution. Perhaps he will not lead his army to the most advantageous place to camp and thus face the danger which a sudden rain would