

bring. Perhaps instead he will form a line of siege all around Mount Tabor and starve out the Israelites there. Or perhaps he will attack and despoil the homes of the Israelites while they are gathered on Mount Tabor and thus force them to give up their campaign and return to try to rescue their homes. Supposing, however, that Sisera does encamp beside the river? What reason is there to feel sure there will be a storm? Deborah may be a good judge of weather conditions. At this time of year perhaps a storm is quite apt to occur, yet suppose it does not? All the great effort will be useless and Barak will be discredited in the eyes of the people. He is not inclined to take the responsibility himself of attempting to carry out this line of attack. However, it appears to him a good suggestion. He thinks it very likely that Sisera will actually encamp by the river Kishon which is the best place to guard the approaches to Mount Tabor. Also he thinks it likely that there will be a storm at this time of the year. He is not quite ready himself to take the responsibility of this plan in case of failure. So we find in verse 8 that he says that he will go if Deborah will go with him. But if she will not go, then he will not undertake this plan of campaign. If the plan fails, he wants it to be clearly evident to everyone that it was Deborah's mistake and not his.

We find a second type of prediction in the next verse. The first prediction was what might be called an organic prediction. That is, it is a prediction which is organically connected with the progress of the accomplishment of the will of God. God is going to give the victory and to destroy Sisera and He is going to do it in the way here predicted. The progress of God's kingdom is clearly linked up with the carrying out of this prediction. The prediction which follows, however, is of an entirely different type. It is one which we might call an incidental prediction. Deborah declares that she will go with Barak if he insists upon it. However, if she goes it does not merely mean that Barak will have someone else as a scapegoat if the plan doesn't work: it means that he will not receive the full credit for its success because the Lord will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman. Barak possibly understood these words as meaning that Deborah would be the one who would win a victory over Sisera. He is willing to