

away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength. Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones." You see how vividly it describes the situation which occurred. It worked out exactly as Deborah had predicted. It worked out exactly as Barak had rightly understood, when she predicted it. But Barak was not 1000% sure. After all the Lord had not spoken to Barak; He had spoken to Deborah. All he had was Deborah's word for it. Deborah had said, The Lord has said this. He thought Deborah is a prophet. God speaks to her. She is passing on His message, that is true. But he said, Suppose it's wrong. Suppose Deborah isn't passing on His message. People have come in the past to believe that they could trust Deborah to give them the true word from God, but suppose, as so often happens when somebody is used of the Lord, they then begin to trust to their own wisdom and say the Lord has done it. People that the Lord uses in a mighty way often reach the point where they think that anything that they think must be the Lord's will, and they begin to say, If you are not following me you are not following the Lord. Well now he did not think that was true of Deborah. But there is a little chance. Barak was a cautious man, and Barak was interested in his reputation. He wanted to go down in history as a man who was a success, not as a man who was a ~~fit~~ failure. He'd rather go down as a minor success than as a great failure. It would be better to be a great success than a minor success, but better be a minor success than a great failure. So Barak says, Maybe Deborah ~~said+th~~ says the Lord has done this, but she is a very wise woman and maybe she had observed weather conditions during these many years when she has been directing Israel, and she knows that this is the very time when the weather is apt to be that way. Well, the trouble+is with that kind of statistical information is it may be right year after year after year+ year, and yet not always.

When I was a senior in Seminary, one of the fellows there prepared