

This is the way in which the Israelites won their freedom from the oppression of the Canaanites. Is this a divine act, or was Deborah simply a shrewd woman. There are two hypotheses in ch. 4. (1) Deborah is here who is a prophet. She judged Israel at that time, and the time came after 20 years, that God told Deborah to give this work to Barak. God tell her that He is going to cause the rain to come and give the opportunity for the complete devastation of the Canaanities and give the opportunity for the 10,000 to take advantage of that which was ~~is~~ set before them. (2) Another interpretation is that Deborah is a woman of great insight. She knows about his character and the kind of man that he is. She knows that he is not the kind of man to be over-cautious--everything has been going well with him and it is a pretty good gamble that he will do this. Then about the rain. Maybe she has studied climate conditions and knows perhaps how often the rain was to come--and she tells Barak to go ahead and take a chance cause we'll win. This is an organic prophecy. It is a prophecy of the way in which the Lord is going to deliver the Israelites and carry out His purpose. God predicted that it was going to happen that way and it did happen that way. But is interested not only let us know that His will ~~is~~ going to be fulfilled, but He is interested to let us know that He is the One who did. So He gives us indications along the way to prove it ~~that~~ way. In this case it was Barak's hesitation which God used. Deborah tells what all is coming to pass, but Barak says, suppose that I do all of this, and take the men up there and it doesn't rain and he probably thinks that she is pretty wise and thinks that perhaps God is speaking through her but he is not quite sure and isn't quite ready to stick his neck out on the proposition. He was not ready, on the one chance in ten that it doesn't work, he wa n't willing to accept the responsibility for this and so Barak says in v. 8--if Deborah would go with him, then he would be willing to go and if the thing want wrong, then the people would know that Barak followed someone that all thought was a prophetess and therefore he couldn't be blamed. Deborah tells him that she would go with him, but if he was willing~~x~~ to go alone, then he wouldn't receive the honor or credit for it..If I go, then it will be plain that ~~Barak~~ ^{a woman} would get the credit for it for Sisera would be delivered into a hand of a woman. You find that this particular sentence that she says does not have the meaning which you would immediately draw from it. It would seem at first that she was going to get the credit out of it instead of him. God is instead, telling exactly