

This, of course, is exactly what happens. We are told in chapter 5:21 that the river Kishon swept him away. The stars in their courses fought against Sisera. God worked on the heart of Sisera so that he would be over-confident and careless and would let his men get into this terrain where they could be destroyed by the sudden attack of the Israelites as they came rushing down from the Mountain against them.

The prediction in verse 7 was a literal prediction and was literally fulfilled.

Now we have another prediction in verse 9 of an entirely different nature. Let us look at the background of it.

In verse 8 Barak refused to take upon himself the responsibility for the fulfillment of the prediction given in verse 7. Barak can easily imagine himself making a fool of himself and also losing a large part of his army. If he brings the men out and they gather here on Mount Tabor, there is the danger that Sisera will besiege them until they die of starvation or have to surrender and be most cruelly treated by their oppressors. Also he fears they may leave their homes at the mercy of Sisera who may take hostages and treat them cruelly. He is not sure that Sisera, even with the over-confidence which twenty years of victory and oppression might create within his mind, will make this fatal error of allowing his cavalry to get into the region where they can be bogged down by the waters of Kishon as it overflows its banks, nor does he feel certain that the freshets will come at just the right time and bog down the opposing army. He does not feel ready to risk another defeat simply on the word of the prophetess, Deborah. Consequently in verse 8 he says that he is ready to go if she will go, but that he will not go alone.

He is not willing to take upon himself the responsibility for this act, but if Deborah is ready to take the blame and it is her prestige rather than his which will suffer if the thing does not work out, then he is ready to go.