

free from oppression. Sisera is simply the leader of the army of the king who is oppressing them. Furthermore, although, as we see, it does not matter whether Sisera is deprived of power, driven into exile, or killed, it more especially does not matter how he is killed. It does not matter whether he is thrown from a chariot by a wild horse and killed, whether an arrow penetrates his armour, whether he is hit with a club, or whether any one of a number of other causes accounts for his death. ^{It} Certainly ~~it~~ is not important to the progress of the work of God that he should escape but not completely escape; that he should come to the tent of a woman who, as far as he knows, is entirely neutral, and should go in there and ask for protection, and that this woman should find herself in a position where she cannot explain the presence of this man in the tent and where she decides to kill him. Whether the woman was friendly to the Israelites, or simply desired to get herself out of a dangerous situation, whether her husband might be angry at finding the man there, and whether the Israelites might treat her as an enemy at finding the head of the opposing army there, or for what reason, it is an incidental fact and not one of great importance that she killed Sisera.

So then the prediction that Sisera will be sold by the Lord into the hand of a woman is not one of organic importance to the progress of the work of God, ^{one which} but simply tells an incidental fact in connection with it.

Nevertheless the prediction about Sisera is a prediction of tremendous importance, for it is a prediction which authenticates the fact that Deborah, the prophetess, spoke from God in a remarkable way.

Someone might say Deborah is simply a woman of remarkably acute insight into political conditions. She knows what sort of a captain Sisera is. She knows that he has become self-confident. She understands that he is quite certain, ~~that~~ if a large group of Israelites gathered on Mount Tabor, to bring his chariots recklessly into a place where they can be rendered ineffective by the rising of the waters of the stream. She also, they might say, knows weather conditions, and knows that it is ^{highly} ~~quite~~ probable that at that time of the year there will be