

a rise in the waters of the river, and consequently that this cleverly worked out scheme will be successful. In order, someone might say, to get the Israelites to work with her in this scheme which she ~~had worked~~ was working in order to ~~free~~ ~~them~~ free them, she tells them that the Lord has said this, but it is really only her own clever planning which is involved. Knowing something of the history of Sisera, knowing something of his character, knowing something of weather conditions, there at Kishon, she maps out the strategy and directs Barak to carry it out. She says it comes from the Lord, but it really is only some clever planning -- that is what someone might say.

Now the second prediction cannot be explained in that way. It is true that we have here not simply a case of someone's clever ~~and~~ planning, but another of those instances where the people in the suffering which God has caused to come upon them for their sin, have turned to him and repented, and where he has sent deliverance. He has told Deborah what to say and how the deliverance is to be secured, and as proof of it, he permits her to give an incidental fact which no human being, ~~which~~ ~~neither~~ ~~human~~ ~~proof~~ ~~nor~~ ~~wisdom~~ ~~could~~ ~~possibly~~ ~~predict~~ which neither human proof nor wisdom could ~~possibly~~ predict.

From the human viewpoint it appears entirely accident that Sisera should escape from the field of battle and should happen to come to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, the Kenite. It appears entirely accident, that Sisera should look for safety at that tent, and that Jael should treacherously bring him in and get him completely at her mercy and then kill him. There are many details of circumstance entering into this which could not possibly be predicted by any mere human guess, and certainly do not form part of the strategy of the battle. Yet God permits Deborah to make this specific prediction of this incidental fact, a prediction the full meaning of which could not be understood by Barak when it was given and possibly not even by Deborah herself, and yet a prediction which was literally fulfilled in the most remarkable way.