

DEBORAH'S PROPHECIES

Today I would like to examine three very interesting prophecies that God made about Israel.

These prophecies were fulfilled in ways that are not immediately obvious. By examining them we can learn some facts about the nature of predictive prophecy that can be helpful in consideration of other predictions.

The predictions that I have in mind are contained in Judges 4. Let us examine the situation. Israel was being punished for its sins. They had been mightily oppressed for many years by the Canaanites, who had 900 chariots of iron. The time came when God was ready to deliver them. He ordered His prophetess Deborah to make three very interesting predictions.

The first of these is found in Judges 4:6-7. Deborah said to Barak, "Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude."

The second prophecy is contained in the latter part of verse 7: "and I will deliver him into thine hand."

The fulfillment of these two prophecies is described in the prose narrative of Judges 4:12-16, and presented in poetic form in the song of victory in Judges 5.

To one who is not familiar with the geography of Palestine the precise way in which these prophecies were fulfilled is not immediately clear. Deborah said that if Barak would take ten thousand men to Mount Tabor, God would draw to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude. Her second prediction was that God would deliver Sisera into Barak's hands.