

With ten thousand men the Israelites would be more than sufficient in number to cope with the force of Sisera if it were not for the fine equipment that Sisera had. With his strong horses and his nine hundred chariots of iron he would have the Israelite footmen absolutely at his mercy. It was on this account that Jabin had been able to hold the much larger number of Israelites in subjection for twenty years.

The strategy involved in Deborah's request is apparent if one notes the geographical situation. Mount Tabor stands out like a watch tower. It is not the highest mountain in Palestine, but it is probably the most conspicuous. It is a very distinctive mountain, with its regular shape and rather steep sides, and is so situated that it can be seen from almost any part of Palestine. If ten thousand men went up on this mountain they would be visible from all over Palestine. Sisera's chariots of iron could not attack them on the mountain, but everyone would know that they were there. Sisera would be ready to pounce upon them the minute they came down.

Among the various places where Sisera might encamp in order to be ready to annihilate Barak's force as soon as it should come down from the mountain, the most attractive was the area around the river Kishon. This was a small stream, that would provide water for the men and for the horses. The land around it was quite flat, so that in the normal dry condition it was an ideal place for chariots and horses to maneuver. Sisera's force could wait in comfort for the time when Barak's men would run out of provisions and would have to come down from the mountain.

Yet there was sometimes an element of danger in camping beside the river Kishon. Once in a long time a sudden storm would come. The river would overflow its banks, and the whole plain would become a slimy marsh in which horses and chariots would become helpless. Struggling to escape, they would sink