

deeper and deeper into the mire. Under these circumstances they would be an easy prey for the Israelite footmen. This is exactly what happened. After Deborah and Barak had taken the army up the mountain (4:10), Deborah said one day (4:14): "Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee?" What she meant was quite clear to Barak. From that altitude they could see in the distance the rapidly approaching storm. Suddenly striking the Canaanites, it would reduce their forces to impotence. This is memorialized in verse 4 of chapter 5, "LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchest out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water." The effect of the storm is described in Judges 5:21-22: "The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength. Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones."

As we read these verses we can vividly see the sudden unexpected downpour; the ground quickly turned into a marsh, making it impossible for horses or chariots to move; the horses struggling to pull the chariots, and instead sinking deeper and deeper into the mire, falling over, crushing the men who were trying to pull them out, and leaving all at the mercy of the attacking Israelite footmen.

Thus the statements of the poem, together with the account in Judges 4, clearly indicate the strategy of the battle, and delineate the way in which God enabled His people to win deliverance from the Canaanite oppressors.

However, we find that originally Barak hesitated about following Deborah's advice. Deborah had assured him that God would draw Sisera with his chariots and his multitude to the place where he would be in great danger if a sudden