

Event 13: Sisera's Strategy

Deborah and Barak mustered the northern Israelite militia at Mt. Tabor, located between the tribal territories of Zebulun, Naphtali and Issachar. Meanwhile Sisera mobilized his Canaanite forces 'at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo.' From their position on Mt. Tabor, the Israelites could see the area of Megiddo and the highway which ran from Megiddo past Mt. Tabor to Hazor. The Canaanite-Israelite battle was fought on the Plain of Tabor. Judges 5:21 suggests that just before or during the battle a cloudburst made the Kishon a 'surging nahal (streambed).' The area was transformed into heavy mud, impractical for chariot warfare. The Israelite peasant militia, however, were on foot and used these conditions to their advantage. Sisera left his chariot and fled east of Mt. Tabor.