

Judges Series

Lesson #64

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**God Gives the Victory;
Failure of Fear
Judges 7:1–4**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson (the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

and the

People

Chap. 19–21

What the Bible Teaches About the Will of God (Divine Guidance)



What the Bible Teaches About the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Zech. 4:6b, “ ‘*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,*’ says the LORD of hosts.”



Judg. 6:14, “Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’”

Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’”

Judg. 6:16, “And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’”

Judg. 6:34, “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.”

Zech. 4:6, “So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.’ ”

The Setting:

Judg. 7:1, “Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.”

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Judg. 6:33, “Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.” ~NKJV

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Site where Saul's
corpse was impaled

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul
was buried

G E S H U R

A M M O N

M E D I T E R R A N E A N S E A

I L I S T I A

Jezreel Valley

P

Kedesh

Hazor

Lake Huleh

Acco

Chinnereth

Ashtaroth

Hannathon

Hammath

Yarmuk River

Golan

Kenath

Dor

Megiddo

Taanach

Jezreel

Beth-shan

Edrei

Ramoth-gilead

Mt. Gilboa

Ibleam

Jabesh-gilead

Socoh

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul
was buried

Zarethan

Tirzah

Shechem

Zaphon

Mahanaim

W. Faria R.

Succoth

Jabbok

River

Tel Qasile

Aphek

Joppa

Shiloh

Adam

Jogbehah

★ Rabbah
(Amman)

Bethel

Jericho

Gezer

Aijalon

Shittim



Pictorial Library Vol. 2: Jezreel Valley



WEST
MANASSEH

Ophrah

Harod Spring

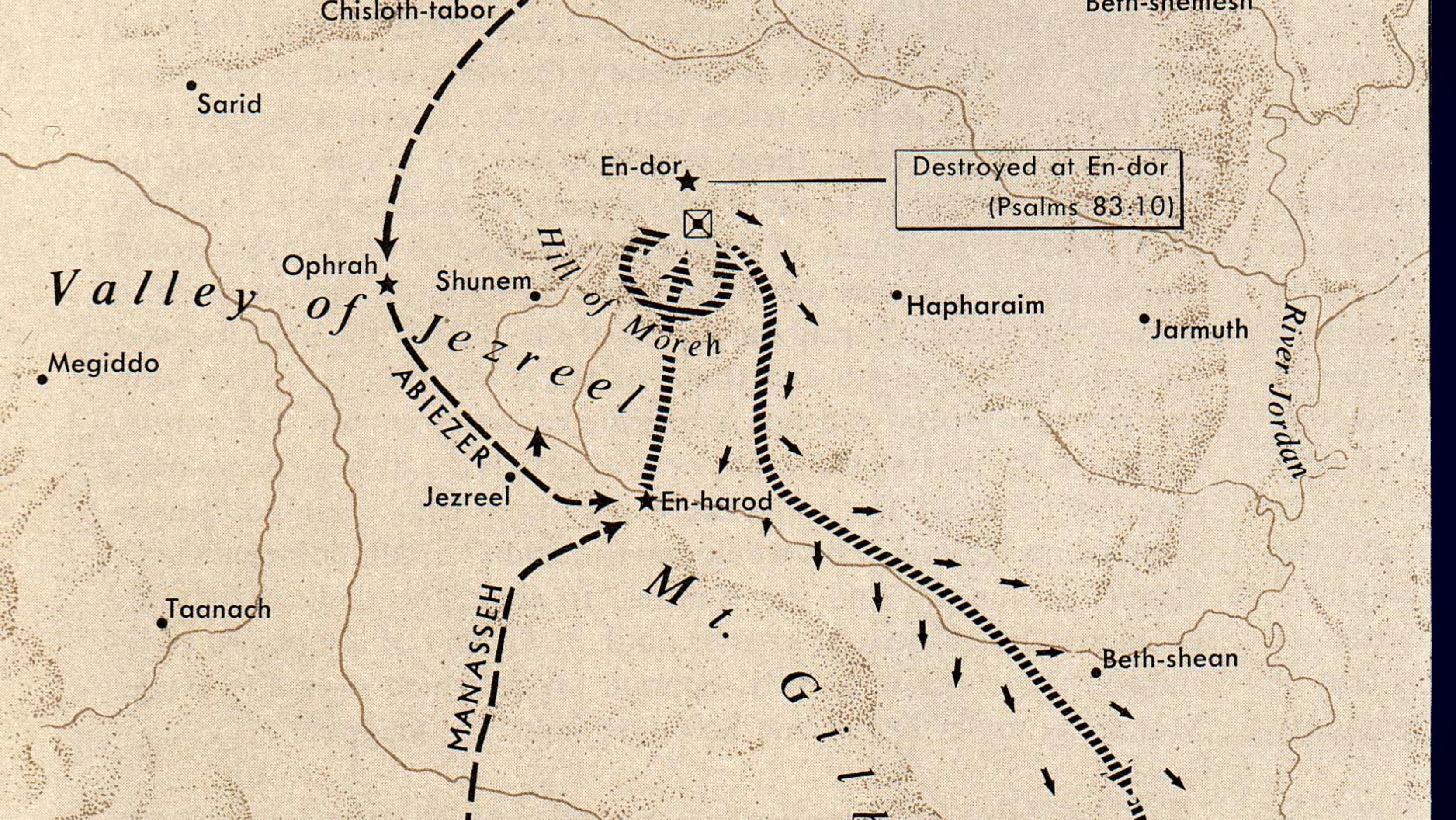
Moreh

VALLEY OF
JEZREEL

Mount Gilboa

5 km

3 mi



Sarid

Chisloth-tabor

Bern-shebes

En-dor

Destroyed at En-dor
(Psalms 83:10)

Ophrah

Shunem

Hill of Moreh

Hapharaim

Jarmuth

Valley of Jezreel

Megiddo

ABIEZER

Jezreel

En-harod

River Jordan

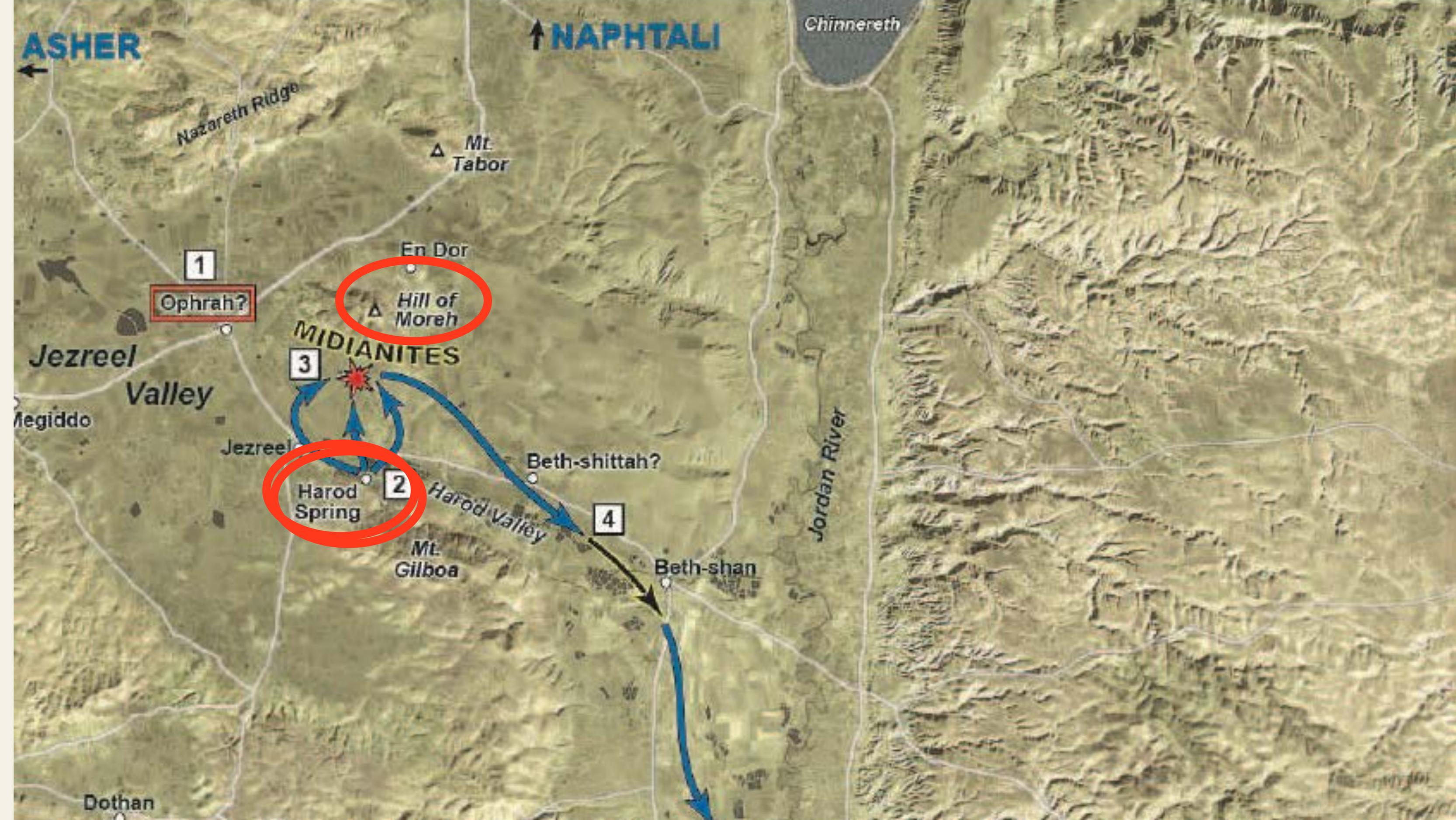
Taanach

MANASSEH

Mt.

GILGAI

Beth-shean



ASHER

NAPHTALI

Chinnereth

Nazareth Ridge

Mt. Tabor

1

Ophrah?

En Dor

Hill of Moreh

MIDIANITES

3

Jezreel Valley

Megiddo

Jezreel

Harod Spring

2

Beth-shittah?

Mt. Gilboa

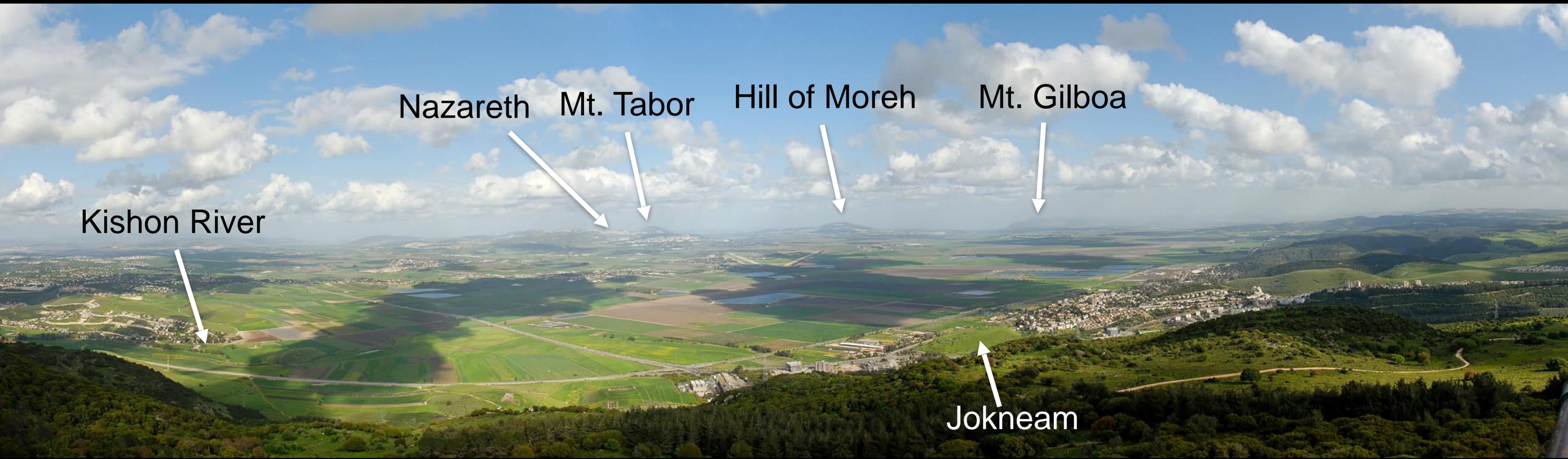
Harod Valley

4

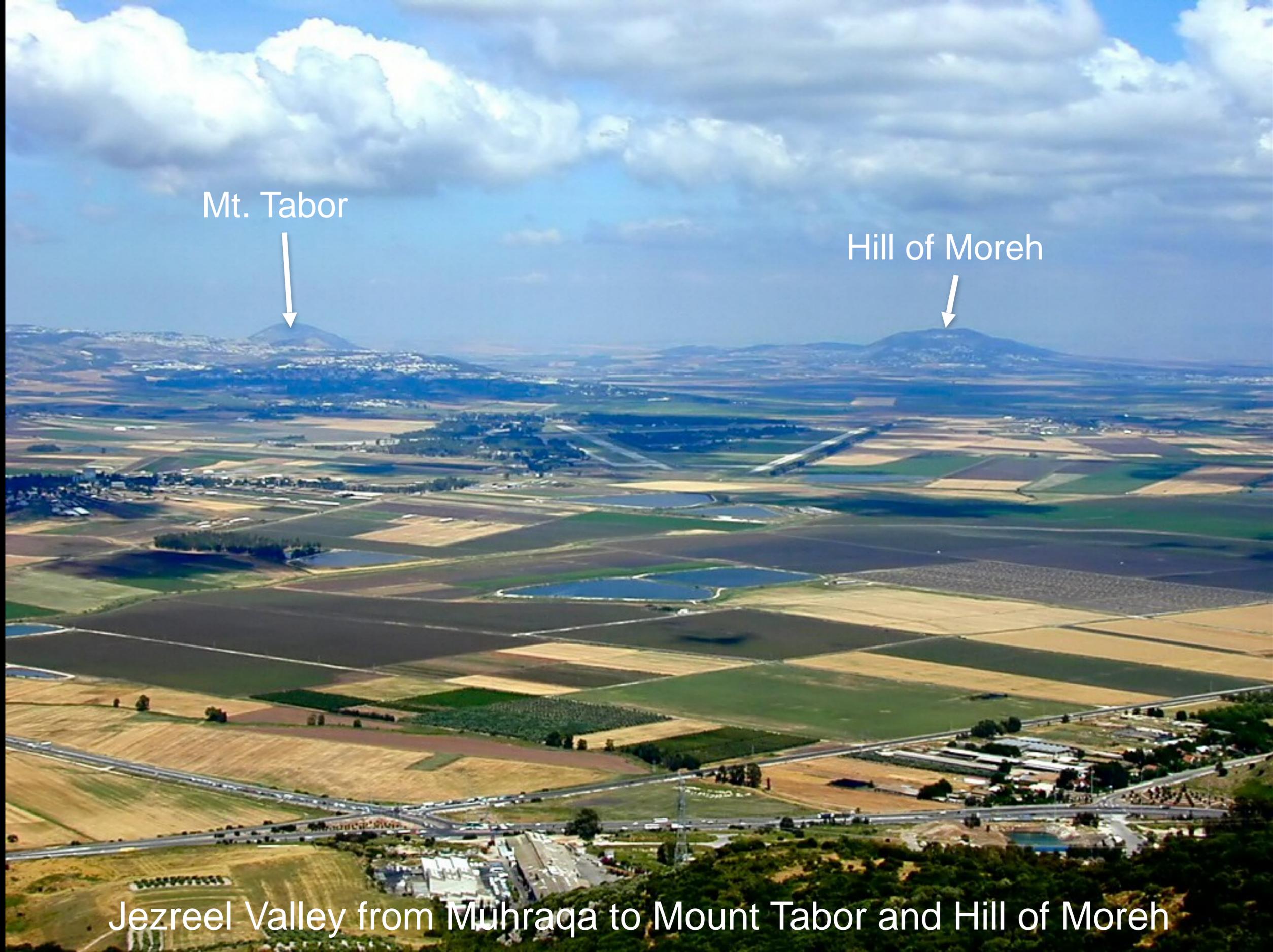
Beth-shan

Jordan River

Dothan



Jezreel Valley from Mount Carmel panorama



Mt. Tabor



Hill of Moreh



Jezreel Valley from Muhraqa to Mount Tabor and Hill of Moreh



Hill of Moreh



Mt. Gilboa



Jokneam



Jezreel Valley from Muhraqa to Hill of Moreh and Mount Gilboa



Tel Jezreel aerial from west



Ein Harod spring cave



Ein Harod stream



Ein Harod with soldiers as Gideon's men

God's Plan is to make it clear that the victory is His, not Gideon's, not the Israelites, but God alone gave the victory.

Judg. 7:2, “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, “My own hand has saved me.” ’ ”

Midian had 135,000 soldiers.

Gideon had 32,000.

Gideon was outnumbered over 4 to 1, but God thought Gideon had too many.

So they are reduced to 10,000.

BUT 13.5 to 1; still too many.

So they are reduced to 10,000.

BUT 13.5 to 1; still too many.

Then they will be reduced to 300.

450 to 1, those are now odds in God's favor.

1. God gives the analysis: If Israel wins with 4 to 1 odds against them, they can claim a tremendous victory and take all of the credit. “My own hand has saved me.”

Judg. 7:2, “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, “My own hand has saved me.” ’ ”

2. God knows that both Gideon and many of the men are trembling and in fear.

Judg. 7:3, “Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’ And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.”

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יָרֵא *yare'* masc sing abs fear

**חָרַד *chared* masc sing
abs tremble, afraid,
fearful**

What the Bible Teaches About

FEAR



1. Fear is the opposite of trust in God; it is also contrasted with love.

1 John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but complete (mature) love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment. But he who fears has not been made mature in love.”

2. When we are operating on fear, we are no longer trusting God, and therefore cannot walk by faith.

3. Fear looks at a problem, a threat, a danger and sees no solution.

Faith looks at the problem in terms of the love, protection, omnipotence, and faithfulness of God.

4. Fear seems to be the basic orientation of fallen man.

Gen. 3:9, “Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’

Gen. 3:10, “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ ”

5. Fear is an emotional sin that attempts to overpower rationality. When it is not stifled by faith it leads to panic and an inability to think calmly. Fear destroys inner peace, stability, and tranquility.

Fear makes decisions from a position of weakness; faith from a position of strength.

6. Fear believes only we can solve our problems and we cannot solve the problems we face.

The Function of Fear

- 1. The more things you fear, the more things you will surrender to fear.**

2. The extent to which you surrender to fear, the greater your capacity for fear.

3. The greater your capacity for fear, the more you increase the power of fear in your life.

4. The more you increase the power of fear in your life, the greater your failure to execute the unique spiritual life of the Church Age.

5. Fear replaces a God focus with a creature focus as the focus of life. Then we try to resolve the fear through anything that will distract us: drugs, alcohol, entertainment, sports, anything can be used to cloak fear and avoid dealing with it.

6. A soldier that cannot exercise self-control in a dangerous situation relies on emotion and becomes a danger to all.

7. God's solution to fear is orientation to grace, orientation to God's plan and purposes, orientation to what the Bible teaches.

Psa. 34:4, “I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

Isa. 41:10, “Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; yes, I will hold you up with the right hand of My Righteousness.”

2 Tim. 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and reciprocal love and sound judgment.”

Psa. 31:24, “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

Psa. 27:14, “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

Deut. 31:6, “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Deut. 31:8, “And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”