

Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ
Summer 2021

Helpful Links



🔗 <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

🔗 Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

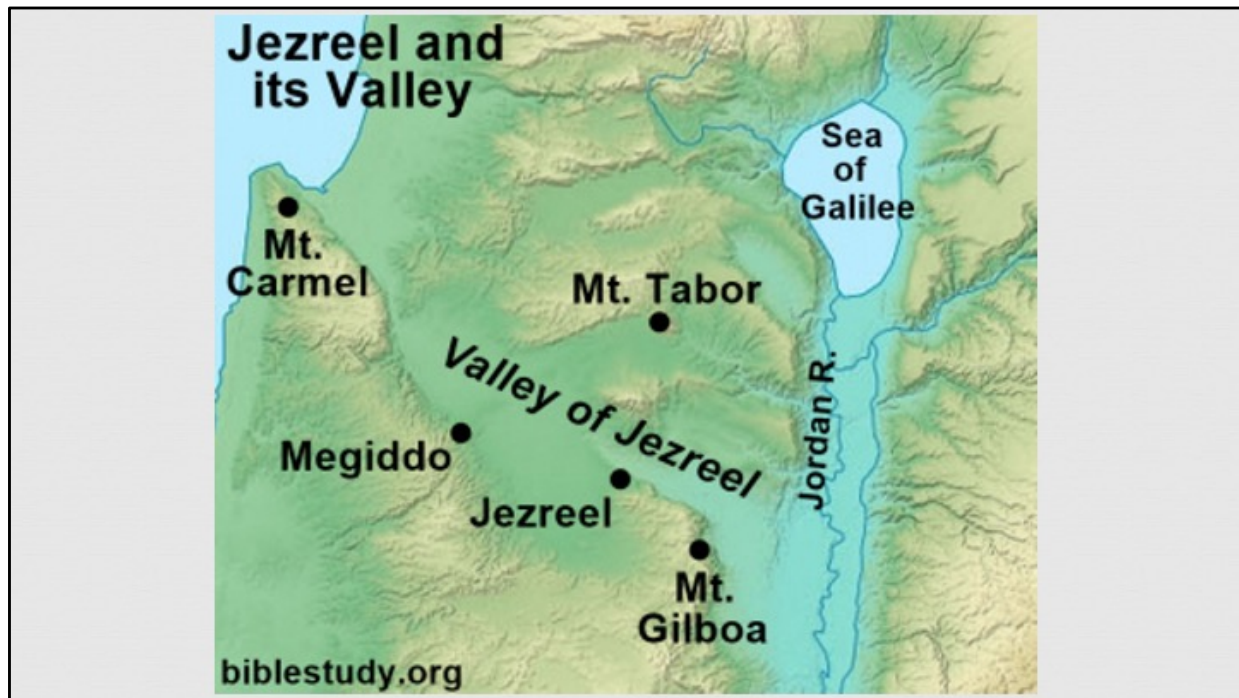
🔗 <https://www.teamagee.com/class/>

🔗 Copies of the slides with my notes

Mount Tabor



Josh 19:12, 22, 34; Judges 4:6, 12, 14; 8:18;
1 Chronicles 6:77; Psa 89:12; Jer 46:18; Hos 5:1
Matt 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28??



Mount Tabor



- ❧ Located at northeastern end of the Jezreel Valley.
- ❧ It is an isolated mountain that rises to 1,843 feet above sea level.
- ❧ Tabor is mentioned in the Old Testament 11 times. Three of these are in Joshua 19, where Joshua shows that the three tribal lands inherited by Zebulun (Josh 19:12), Issachar (Josh 19:22), and Naphtali (Josh 19:34) all border Mount Tabor.
- ❧ It also is the place where Deborah tells Barak of Yahweh's command to gather an army (Judges 4:6, 12), and from which Barak descends (with his 10,000 men) to do battle against Sisera and his army (Judges 4:14).
- ❧ Tabor is also mentioned in Judges 8:18 in a conversation between Gideon and two men he has captured in battle, where he asks, "What type were the men whom you killed at Tabor?"

Mount Tabor (Cont.)



- ✧ In 1 Chronicles 6:77, Tabor is mentioned as being allotted to the Merarites for its pastureland.
- ✧ Even though Mount Tabor's elevation was not that high, the psalmist compares it to the nearby Mount Hermon (Psalm 89:12), and Jeremiah places it in parallel to Mount Carmel (Jeremiah 46:18).
- ✧ Hosea uses the phrase "net spread out on Tabor" (Hosea 5:1) to indicate God's judgment on the idolatrous practices of the priests.
- ✧ Mt. Tabor is never explicitly mentioned in the New Testament. However, since at least the fourth century AD, it has been suggested as the place of the transfiguration of Christ.
 - ✧ Matt 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28.
- ✧ Matt 17 simply says that they went to a "high mountain."
 - ✧ Many believe this could be Mt. Hermon in the Golan Heights.

Mount Tabor (Cont.)

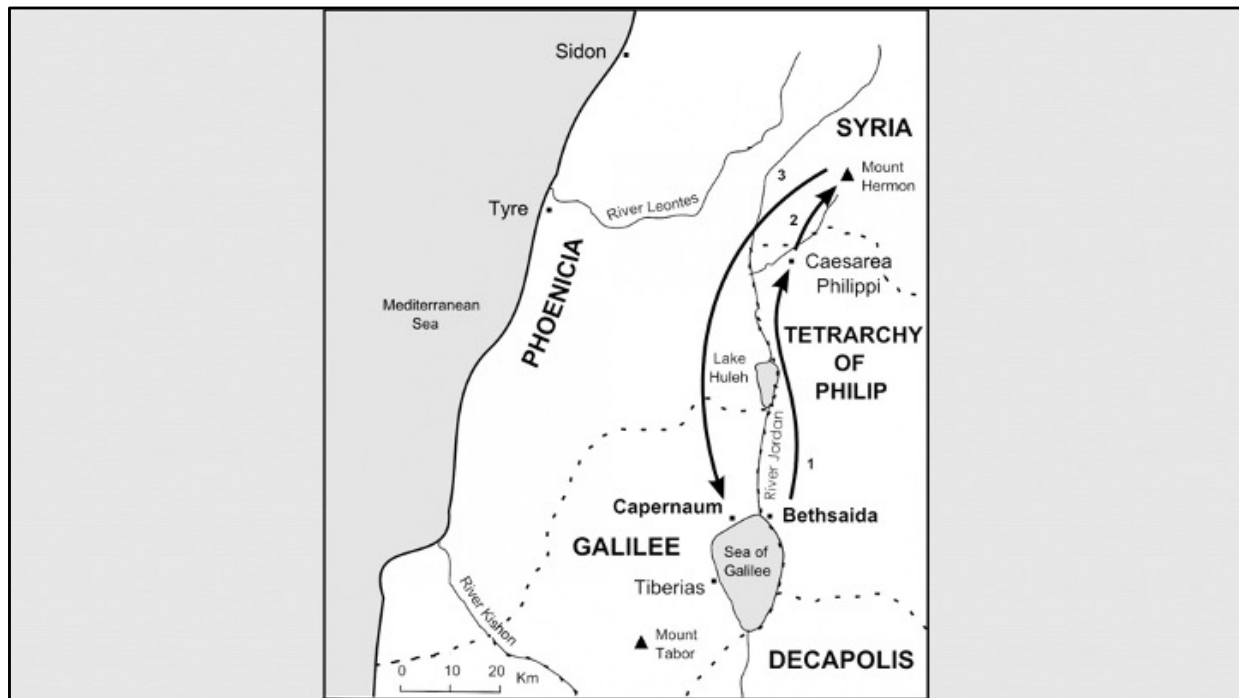


✧ **Matthew 17:1 (ESV)** - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

✧ Jesus and his disciples had been in Caesarea Philippi (Mt 16:13)

✧ Distance from Caesarea Philippi to Mount Tabor is ~ 80 km

✧ Distance from Caesarea Philippi to Mount Hermon is ~ 20 km





Mount Tabor - 1,843 ft above sea level



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor with Nazareth in the distance.



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor.



Mount Gilboa in the distance



There are cats all over Palestine



On top of Mount Tabor is the Church of the Transfiguration. The current church, part of a Franciscan monastery complex, was completed in 1924. The architect was Antonio Barluzzi. It was built on the ruins of an ancient (4th–6th-century) Byzantine church and a 12th-century church of the Crusader Kingdom period. It was built to represent the three tabernacles that Peter wanted to erect at the transfiguration (notice the three towers - Jesus is the center, Moses to the left, and Elijah to the Right).

The Franciscans are a group of related mendicant Christian religious orders, primarily within the Catholic Church. Founded in 1209 by Saint Francis of Assisi, these orders include the Order of Friars Minor, the Order of Saint Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis. They adhere to the teachings and spiritual disciplines of the founder and of his main associates and followers, such as Clare of Assisi, Anthony of Padua, and Elizabeth of Hungary. Several smaller Protestant Franciscan orders exist as well, notably in the Anglican and Lutheran traditions.

Mount Tabor (Cont.)



Matthew 17:2-4 (ESV)

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."



Shrine to Jesus in the center of the Sanctuary. Moses is on the left and Elijah on the right. With Peter, James and John down below.



Shrine to Moses.....to the left of the main sanctuary



Shrine to Elijah.....to the right of the main sanctuary



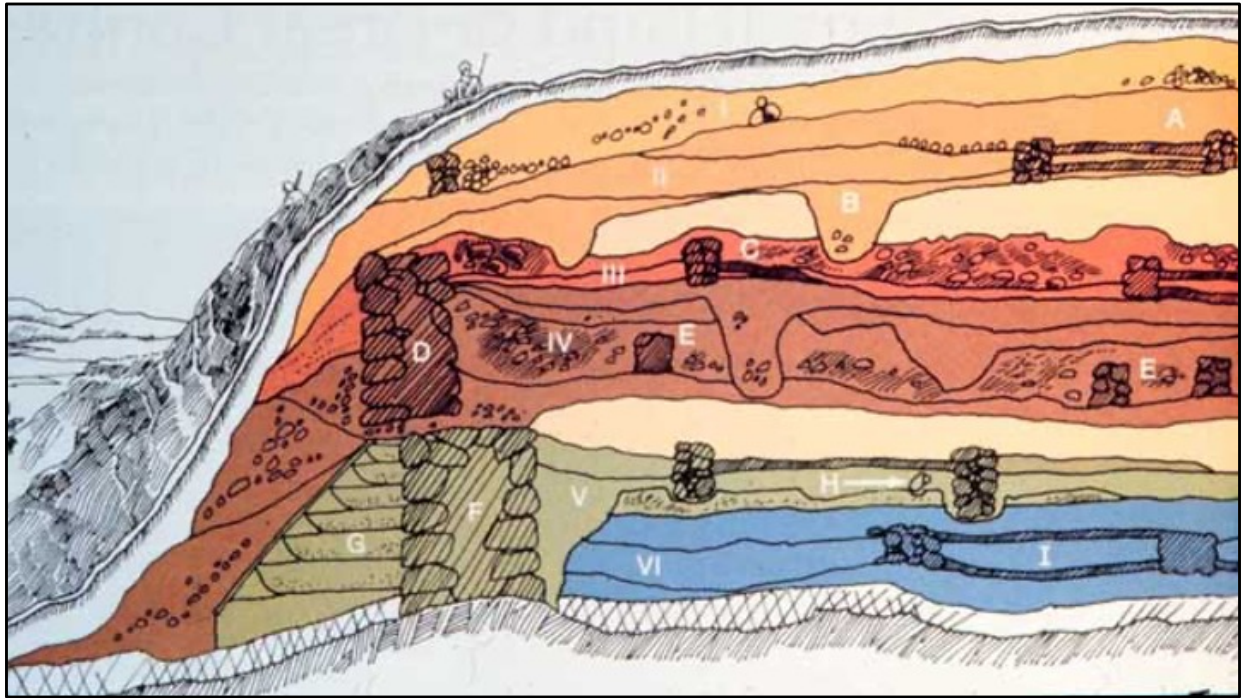
Cross of Jerusalem - 1 big cross and 4 smaller crosses. This is now the symbol of holy land. Some see it as representing the 5 wounds of Jesus or other see the large cross as Jerusalem and the small 4 are the four corners of the world.

Tel Hazor



Joshua 11:7, 10; Judges 4:2; 17; 1 Kgs 9:15; 2 Kgs 15:29





Representative diagram of a Tel (Tell) showing levels of strata from years of destruction and rebuilding.

Tel Hazor



- ✎ Tel Hazor is located in the Valley of Huleh - first occupied in ~ 2,800 BC.
- ✎ The earliest reference to Hazor dates to the late 19th or 18th century BC in the Egyptian Execration Texts. The next historical references, from the Mari archive (17th century BC), show that Hazor was already a city of regional prominence at the time.
- ✎ The Bible first introduces Hazor related to Israel's conquest of Canaan. In Joshua 11, Jabin, the king of Hazor, called upon other Canaanite kings to meet Joshua and the Israelite troops for battle near the waters of Merom (Joshua 11:7). Joshua 11:10 refers to Hazor as "The head of all those kingdoms." The Israelites defeated the Canaanites, killed Jabin, and burned the city to the ground.

Tel Hazor (Cont.)



- ✧ In Judges 4, Hazor is under the leadership of Jabin king of Canaan (Judges 4:2; 17).
 - ✧ Not unusual for several kings to use a dynastic name like “Jabin”
- ✧ Hazor became an important Israelite city during Solomon’s reign, as Solomon built up garrison cities and strategic bases. Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer were the most important of these cities (1 Kings 9:15).
- ✧ The last historical reference to Hazor indicates that the city fell to Assyria in 732 B.C., along with other cities in the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 15:29).



View of the Valley of Huleh with the Northern Galilee mountains in the distance. Just past these mountains is the country of Lebanon. City of Hazor gained prominence from its strategic location and proximity to the main route to Mesopotamia. During the peak of the Canaanite period, it possibly had as many as 20,000 inhabitants.



Main gate to Hazor from the time of Solomon (10th Century BC).



A palace from Canaanite period (14th to 13th century BC)



A palace from Canaanite period (14th to 13th century BC)



A water system from the time of Ahab (9th century BC) similar to the one in Megiddo.



*A citadel in the upper section of the site that is from the 11th century BC (time of the Judges).

*A tower from the time of Ahab (9th century BC) that is above the citadel (upper right)



An oil press from 8th century B.C.

Tel Dan



Gen 14:14; Josh 19:40–48; Judg 18:27, 29;
1 Kgs 12:26–33, 15:20, 20:34, 42; 2 Chr 16:4;

“From Dan to Beersheba” - Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 3:10,
17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25; 1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5



Tel Dan



- ❧ Dan is located at the foot of Mount Hermon
- ❧ Dan is also a very important archeological site, and this stop was noted for being the first place where the name of David was found in 1993 in an inscription that reads "King of Israel, King of the House of David"
- ❧ Dan is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 14. Abraham is pursuing Chedorlaomer king of Elam, who had abducted his nephew Lot, when they looted Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham caught up with Chedorlaomer at Dan (Genesis 14:14).
- ❧ According to Judges 18:29, Dan was called Laish (or Leshem) prior to Israel's conquest of Canaan, so the use of the place-name "Dan" in Genesis 14 likely reflects a later updating of the text to use the Israelite name instead of the Canaanite name for the site.

The inscription regarding David is now held in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ✧ The tribe of Dan, originally given territory on the southern coast, migrated there when they could not defeat Philistine coastal inhabitants (Joshua 19:40–48). A group of Danites went north to Laish and destroyed it (Judges 18:27). They renamed Laish “Dan” after their patriarch.
- ✧ Dan was also the location of a large religious complex, built by Jeroboam during the Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12:26–33). He built a large altar and temple complex at Dan (and at Bethel; see 1 Kings 12:29) to stop Israelites from going to Jerusalem to worship. He set up a golden calf in the shrine and proclaimed, “Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt” (1 Kings 12:28).

Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ❧ During the 8th century BC, Dan traded hands several times between the Israelites and the Arameans. Dan was briefly captured by Ben-Hadad I—king of the Arameans of Damascus in the end of the 9th century BC—he was bribed by Judah to break his alliance with Israel (1 Kings 15:20; 2 Chr 16:4).
- ❧ By the reign of Ahab (ca. 874–850), Dan was once again under Israelite control. Ahab defeated Ben-Hadad (possibly his son Ben-Hadad II) and Ben-Hadad offered to give back “the cities which my father took from your father” (1 Kings 20:34). This included Dan and was an offer Ahab agreed to. Ahab was condemned for accepting this concession instead of killing Ben-Hadad, as the Lord had ordered him to do (1 Kings 20:42).
- ❧ Ahab likely built a huge wall around Dan, measuring 13 feet thick and 50 feet tall.

Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ✎ Dan was recaptured by the Arameans under Hazael in the late ninth or early eighth century, but the Syrians would only control it for a short time. When Syria was threatened by Assyria on its eastern border during the early seventh century, the Israelites under Jeroboam II took the opportunity to recapture Dan.
- ✎ “From Dan to Beersheba” is a biblical phrase used nine times to refer to the settled areas of the Tribes of Israel between Dan in the North and Beersheba in the South (Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 3:10, 17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25; 1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5).

The phrase “From Dan to Beersheba” contributed to the position that was used by British politicians during negotiation of the British Mandate for Palestine following World War I.



At Tel Dan, you can easily see part of Mt. Hermon. Mt. Hermon is in the Golan Heights and consists of several mountains that reach a height of 9,232 ft above sea level. The snow from the top of Mt. Hermon supplies the 4 tributaries to the Jordan River.



The largest of these tributaries is Dan Springs, which was the first thing that you see on the walk to the city. This stream moves very fast and supplies 1/3 of the water to the Jordan River.



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Restored outer wall of Tel Dan

Tel Dan (Cont.)



1 Kings 12:26-30 (ESV)

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.



The remains of Jeroboam's temple that is mentioned above from 1 Kgs 12. This was the actual site where Jeroboam placed his golden calf for the people to worship. Bema (High Place) is on the right and the altar on the left. Metal frame shows where altar would have been.



Wide angle view of Jeroboam's temple.



Sitting on the remains of the Bema (High Place)



“Abraham’s Gate.” This is a mud brick gate discovered in the 1980s that is remarkably intact. It is from the 18th century BC, which would have been the time of Abraham. It is possible that when Abraham pursued Chedorlaomer to Dan / Laish to rescue Lot that he entered the city through this gate. There has been no restoration on this site. It is exactly as it was discovered. Probably the oldest gate in the world.



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