



[teamagee.com/newsletter](http://teamagee.com/newsletter)

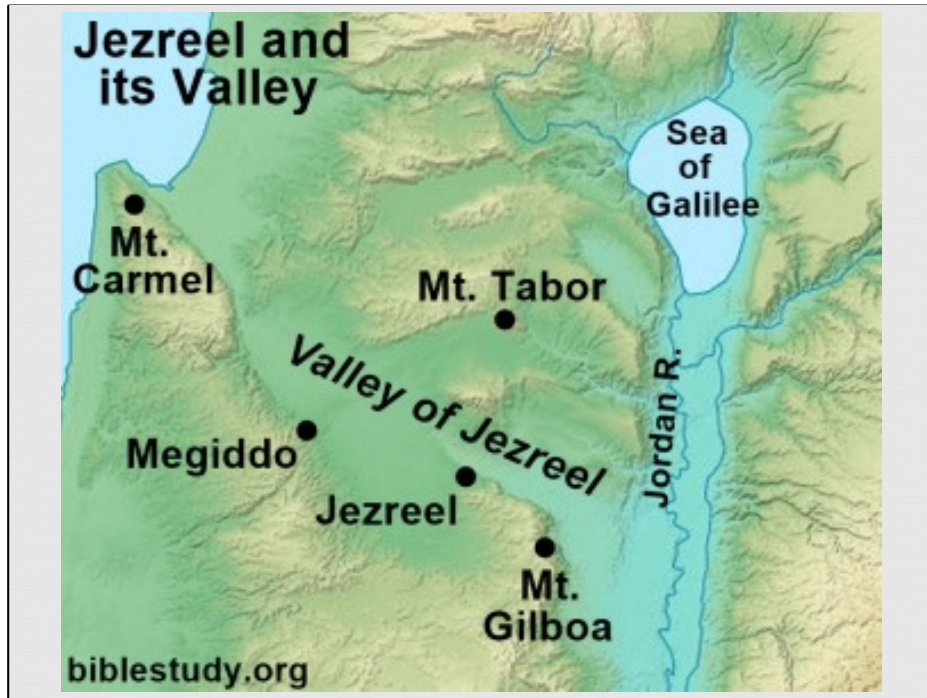


For information on future trips to Israel...  
Currently in the early planning stages for  
spring / summer 2024

## Tel Megiddo



Josh 12:21, 17:11; Judges 1:27, 5:19; 1 Kgs 4:12, 9:15;  
2 Kgs 9:27, 23:29-30; 1 Chronicles 7:29;  
2 Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:11



# Tel Megiddo



- ☞ Megiddo is a fortress city that dates back to about 5,000 B.C., located on the southwest side of the Jezreel Valley at the foot of Mount Carmel.
- ☞ Megiddo was a city that was located on the Via Maris, an ancient trade route linking Egypt with the northern empires of Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Megiddo's location on this route showed that the city was very significant.
- ☞ This is also evidenced by the words of Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th century B.C.) of Egypt, "... for the capturing of Megiddo is the capturing of a thousand cities."

## Tel Megiddo (Cont.)

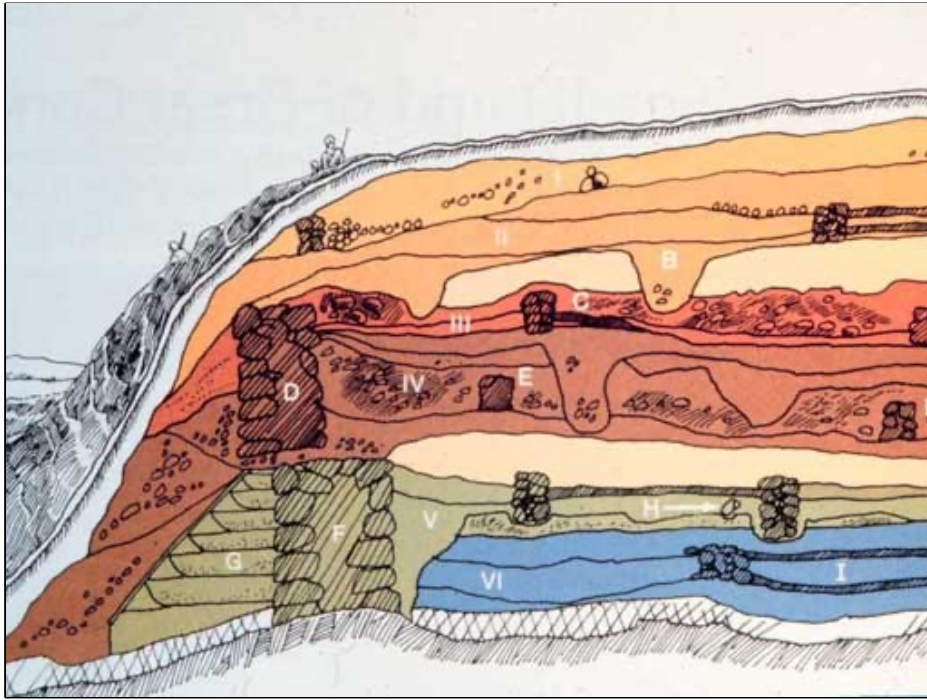


- ✧ Megiddo is referenced 12 times in the Old Testament.
- ✧ Megiddo is mentioned among the cities conquered by Joshua (Josh 12:21), though apparently, they were unsuccessful at fully driving out the Canaanites (Josh 17:11).
- ✧ During the reign of Solomon, Megiddo was fortified along with Gezer and Hazor (1 Kgs 9:15).
- ✧ Hazor fell to Shishak (925 BC) & Tiglath-pileser III (733 BC).
- ✧ Josiah died at Megiddo in 609 BC in his confrontation with Pharaoh Neco (2 Kgs 23:29).

## Tel Megiddo (Cont.)



- ☞ Megiddo was destroyed 30 times by waves of conquerors, and this has resulted in 30 strata that comprise the Tel.
- ☞ According to tradition this will be the site of Armageddon as described in Revelation 16
- ☞ Most likely this association is metaphorical



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





Tel Megiddo (June 2022)



Ancient staircase from the Canaanite (before 15<sup>th</sup> century BC) period before the children of Israel took the promised land.



Main gate of Megiddo from the 16th century B.C. (This means that it is 3500 years old). This was the only way in and out of city.



The gate had multiple rooms on either side of it. This was for the collection of taxes from those who entered the city. Wooden planks show line of what is original to the site, and what has been reconstructed.



Pathway to the top of Tel Megiddo



Gate from 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (Israelite period > time of Solomon). Partially destroyed getting to the lower gate from the 16<sup>th</sup> century (December 2019)



Same Israelite gate two and a half years later (June 2022)



View from the top of Tel Megiddo showing excavation through the various strata. Note the round Canaanite altar to the right. (June 2022)





Remains of the Northern Palace and northern stables. This palace was from either the 10<sup>th</sup> (Solomon) or 9<sup>th</sup> (Ahab) centuries BC.



Speaking to our group from the top of Tel Megiddo / Overlooking the Jezreel Valley



Grain Silo from 8<sup>th</sup> century BC / time of Jeroboam II (8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.)



Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)



Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)

## Water System at Megiddo

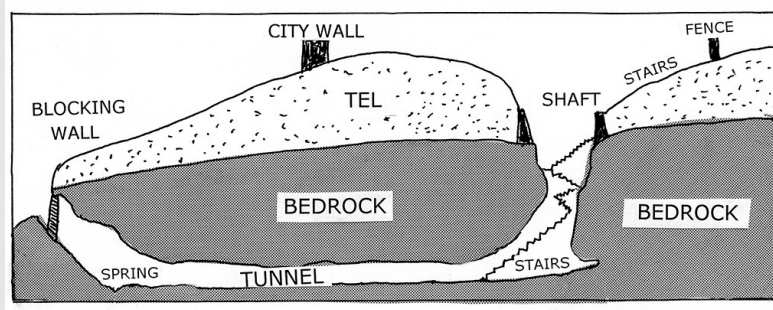


Diagram of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Entrance of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel. Notice the original steps to the right of the modern steps.



Tunnel leading down to the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.





Tunnel leading down to the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Tunnel that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.

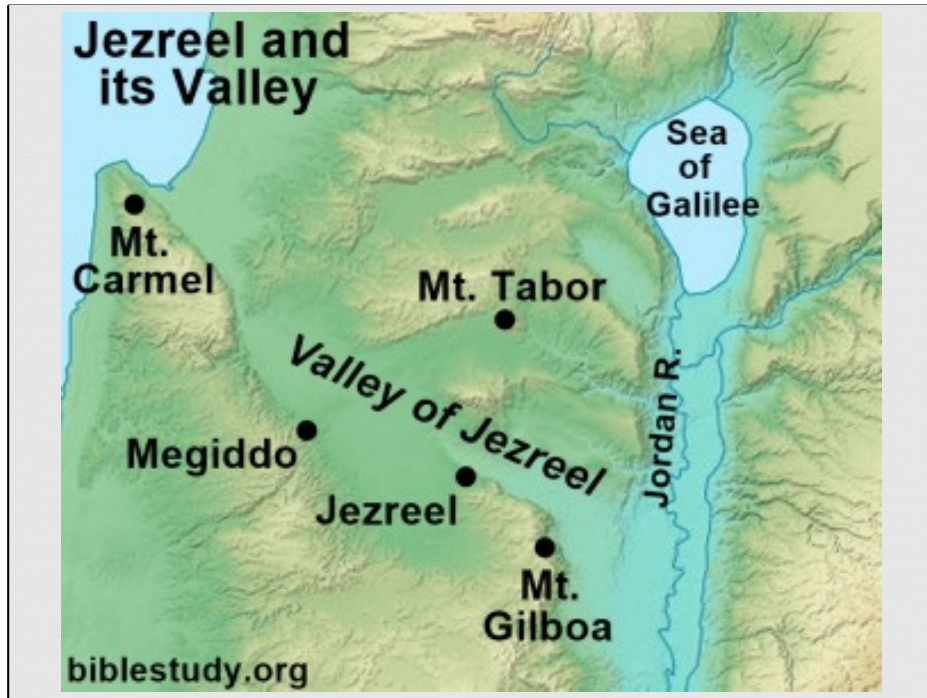


Spring that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.

## 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.)



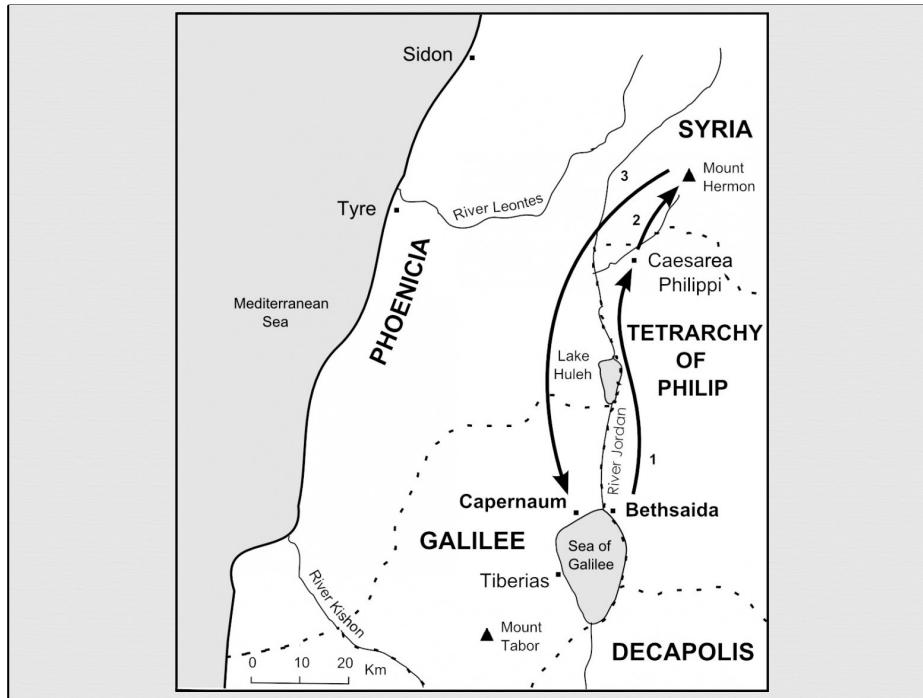
☞ **Matthew 17:1 (ESV)** - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

☞ 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 feral 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)**

<sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> 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



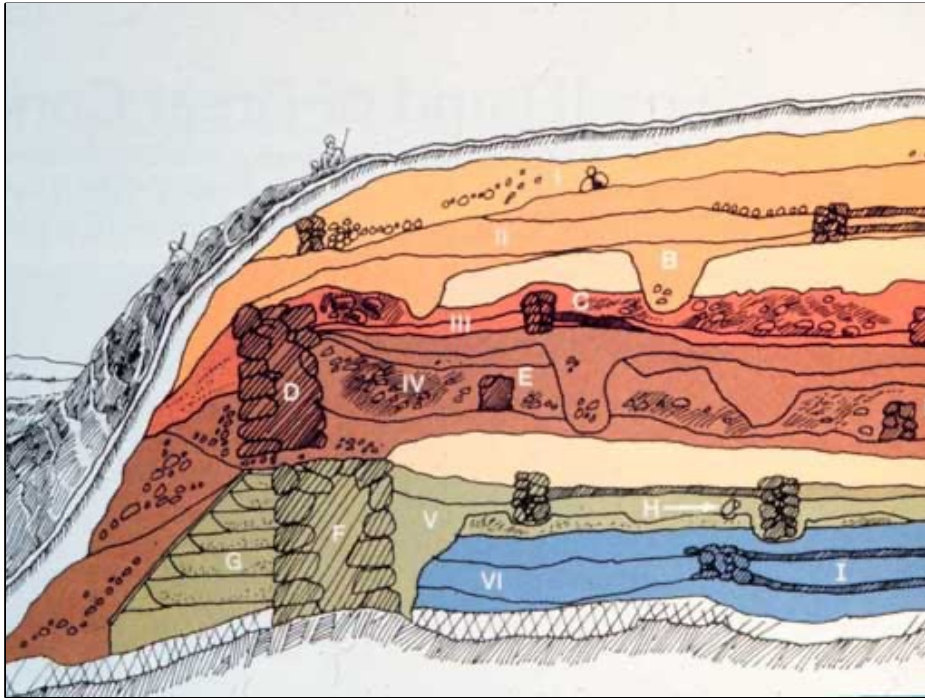
Cross of Jerusalem - 1 big cross and 4 smaller crosses. This is now the symbol of holy land. Some see it as representing the 5 wounds of Jesus or other see the large cross as Jerusalem and the small 4 are the four corners of the world.

# 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 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 city during Solomon’s reign, as Solomon built up garrison cities and strategic bases. Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer were highlighted in 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 (10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.