

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, showing the Old City walls and a large cemetery in the foreground. The city is densely packed with buildings, and a prominent dome is visible in the center. The foreground is filled with numerous stone grave markers, some with Hebrew inscriptions. The overall scene is a mix of ancient and modern architecture.

Lessons From the...
Holy Lands

Lesson 2

Tel Megiddo, Mount Tabor, Tel Hazor

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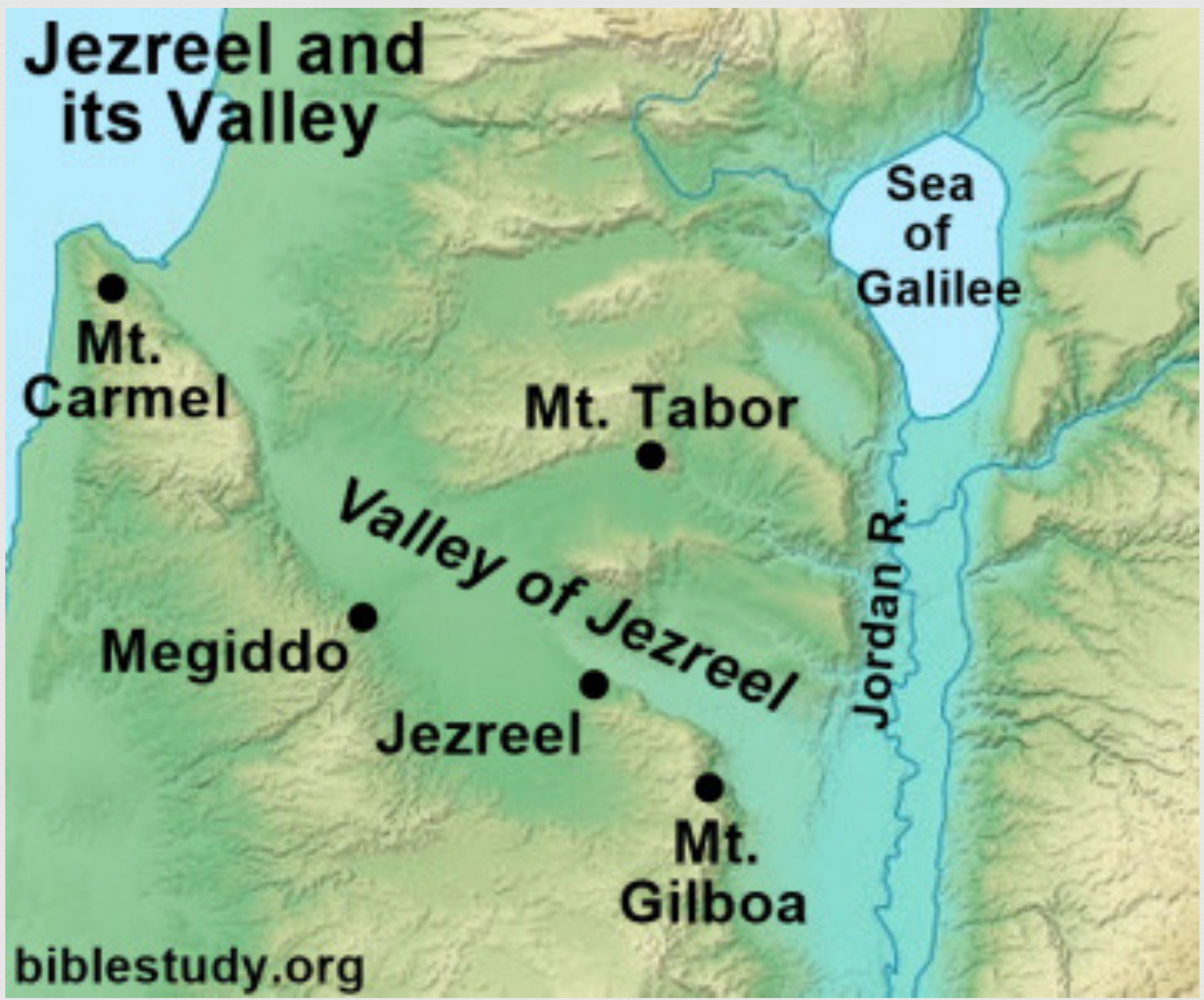
For information on future trips to Israel...
Currently in the early planning stages for
spring / summer 2024

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

Jezreel and its Valley



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.)

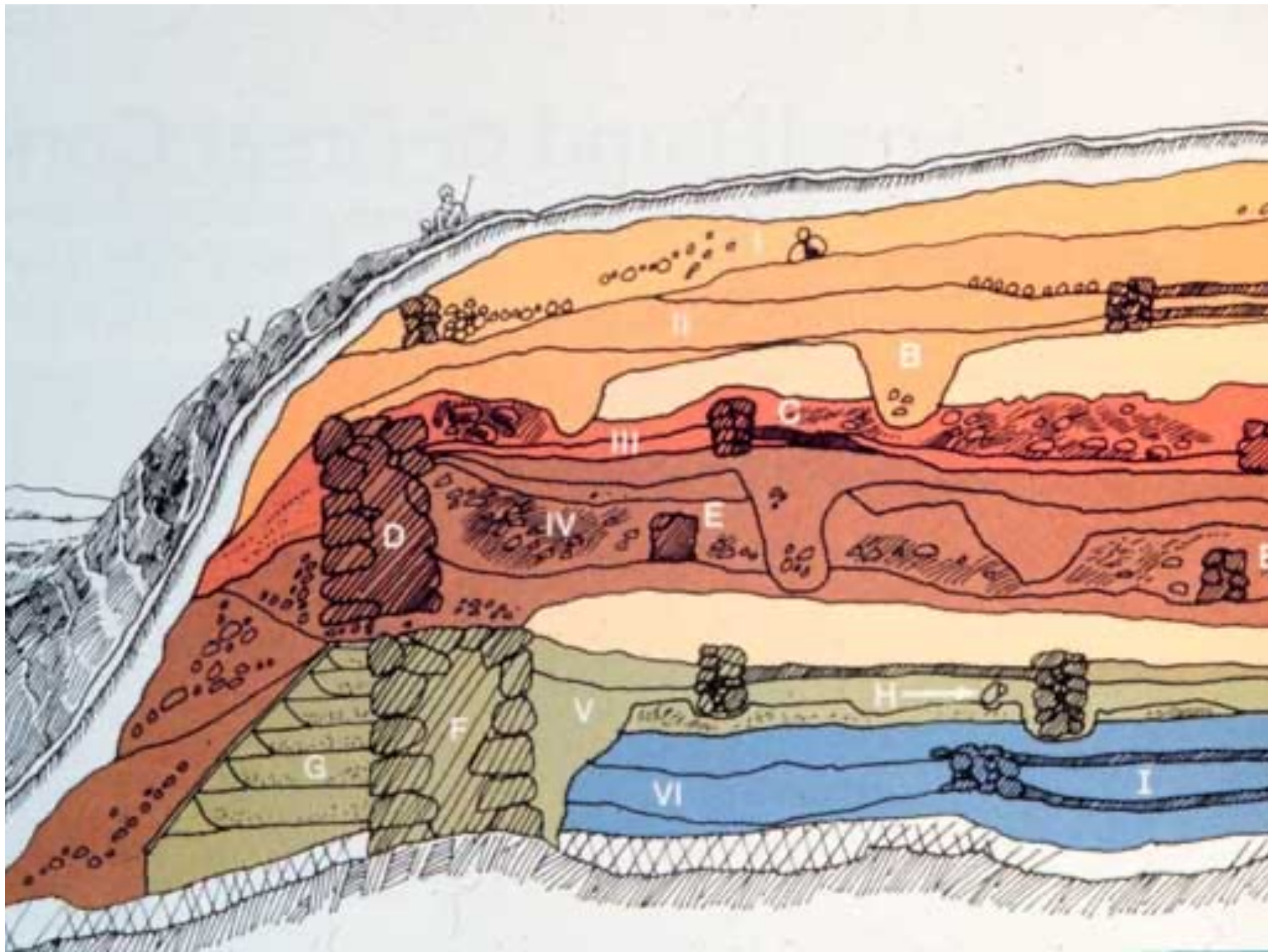


- ☞ Megiddo is referenced 12 times in the Old Testament.
- ☞ Megiddo is mentioned among the cities conquered by Joshua (Josh 12:21), though apparently, they were unsuccessful at fully driving out the Canaanites (Josh 17:11).
- ☞ During the reign of Solomon, Megiddo was fortified along with Gezer and 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









The city gate
שער העיר

2









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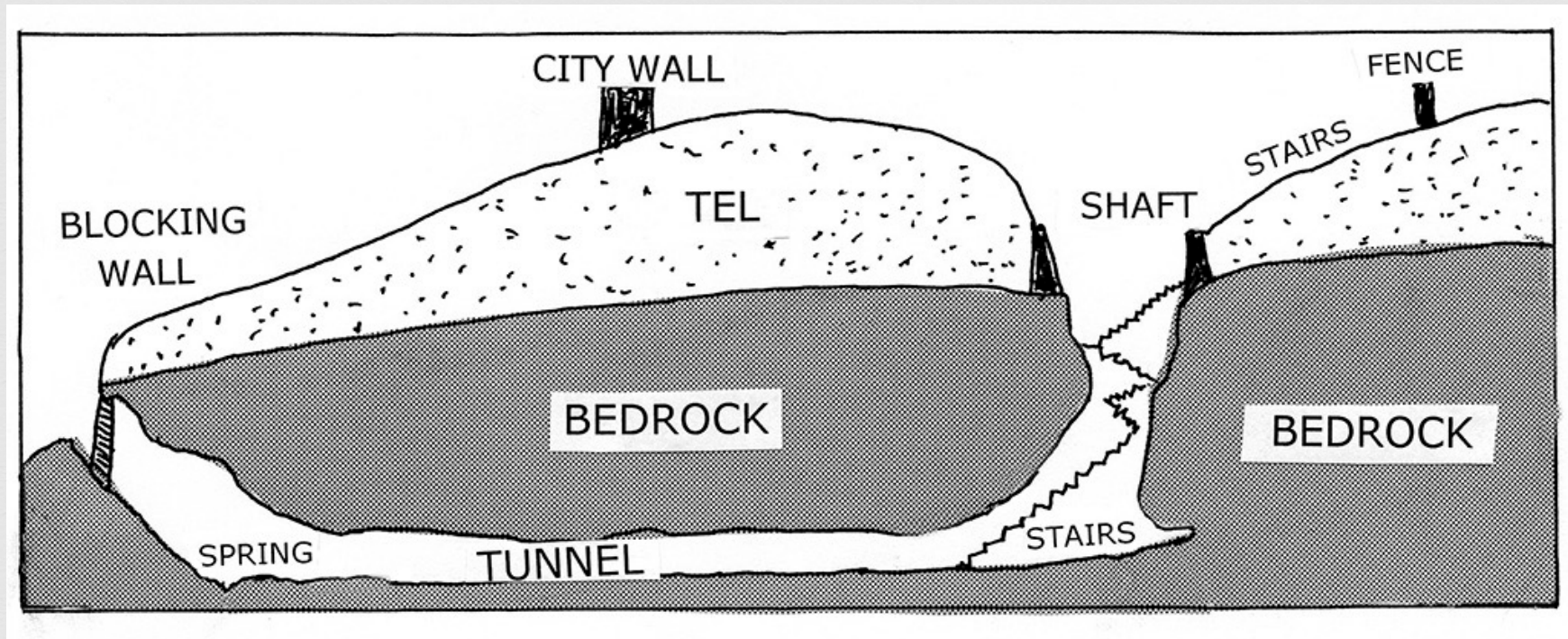








Water System at Megiddo











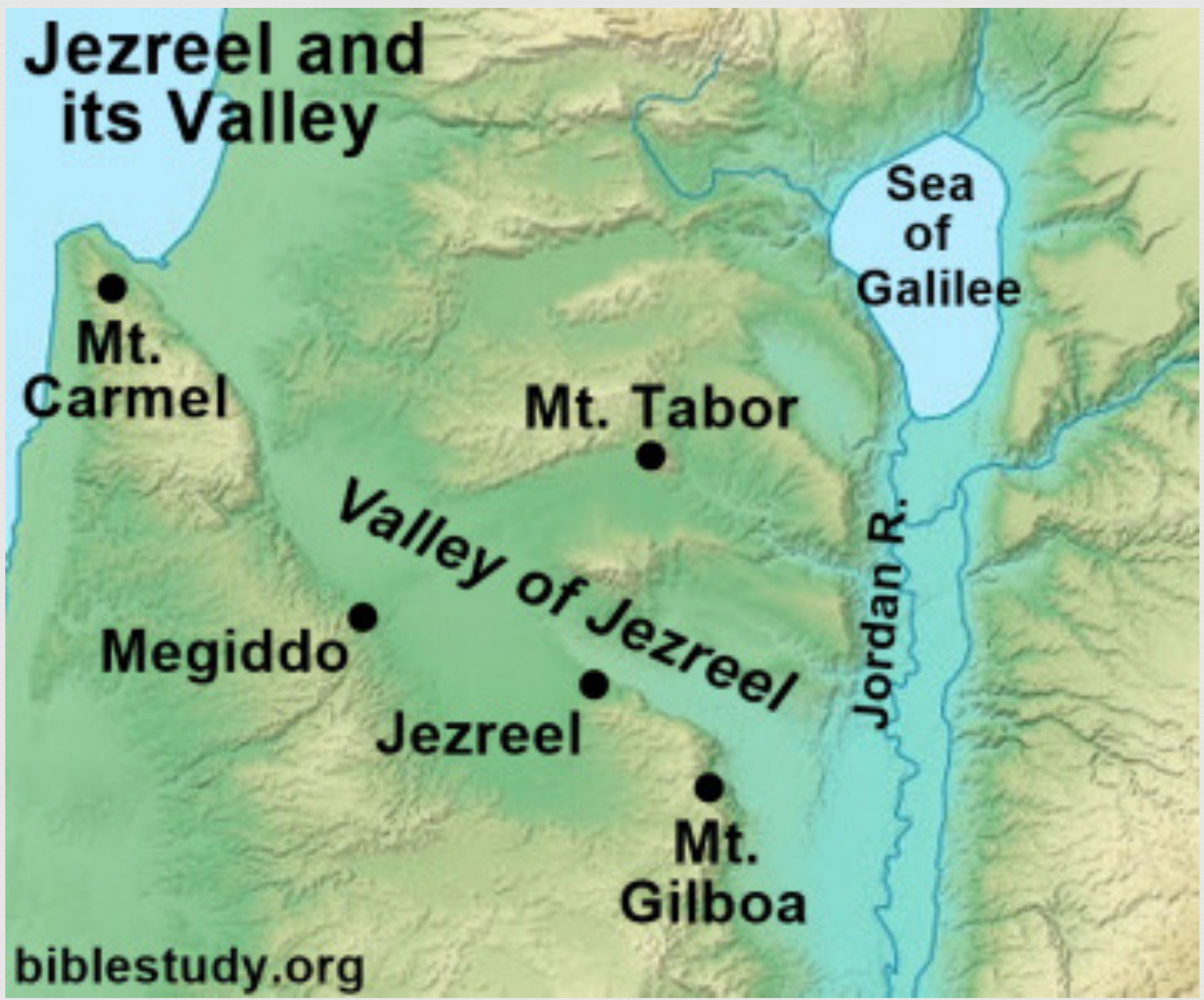


Mount Tabor



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??

Jezreel and its Valley



Sea of Galilee

Mt. Carmel

Mt. Tabor

Megiddo

Valley of Jezreel

Jezreel

Mt. Gilboa

Jordan R.

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.)

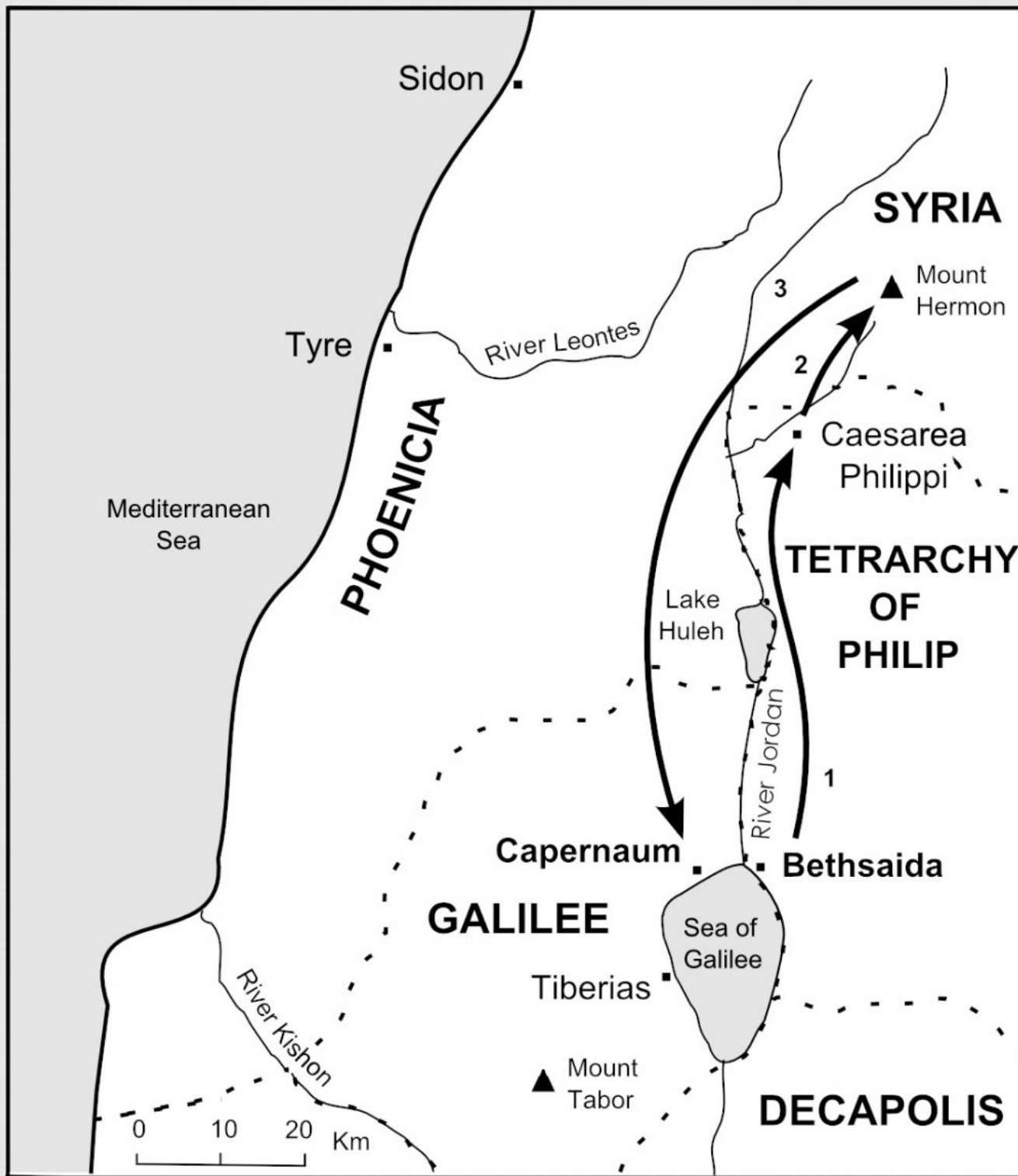


- ❧ In 1 Chronicles 6:77, Tabor is mentioned as being allotted to the Merarites for its pastureland.
- ❧ Even though Mount Tabor's elevation was not that high, the psalmist compares it to the nearby Mount Hermon (Psalm 89:12), and Jeremiah places it in parallel to Mount Carmel (Jeremiah 46:18).
- ❧ Hosea 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 (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.”







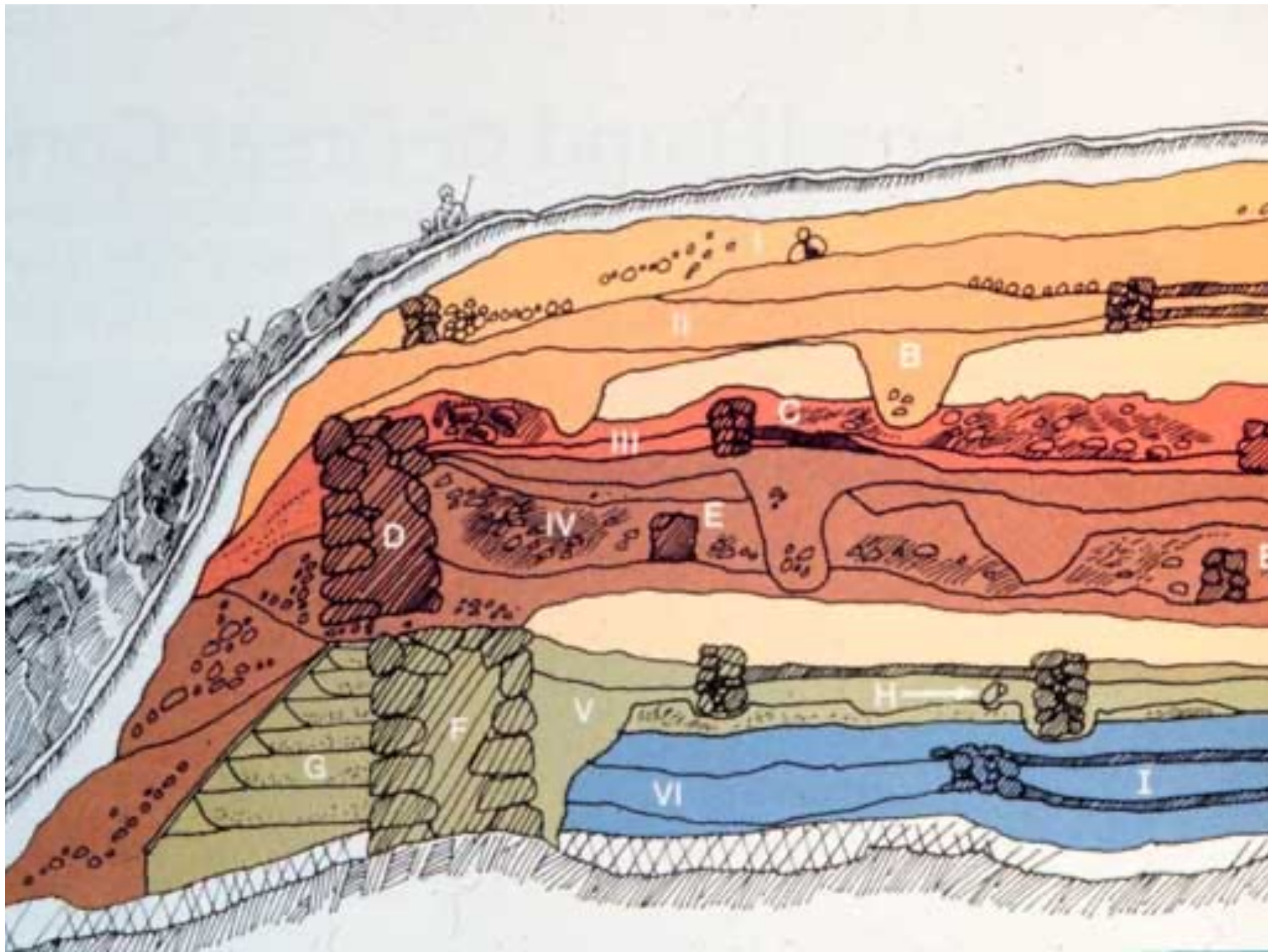


Tel Hazor



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





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).













