

- Good morning Arising Church,

We will be covering an installment of our Israel geography series that we have been building toward for some time. Today's title is Megiddo: Prepare now, prevail then

**\*Work through review and highlight #8 as today's message\***

## Encountering Israel: Deepening Convictions

1. Gihon — **Awakening**

God initiated salvation; His life begins to flow through the man of God, and the heart of man is opened.

2. Hermon — **Confrontation**

The enemy resists, identity is contested, and through this process, conviction is forged.

3. Kidron — **Decision**

Daily choices shape destiny, and salvation becomes, not just a moment, but a path both lived and walked upon.

4. Valley of Kings — **Pressing**

God refines through pressure; obedience is perfected, and anointing is produced.

5. Adullam — **Formation**

Seasons of hidden obscurity develop kings—disciples become leaders, and what was just a calling becomes ingrained character.

6. Tabernacle — **Assembly**

The dwelling of God is built with unlikely materials that are stripped down and covered with hammered gold.

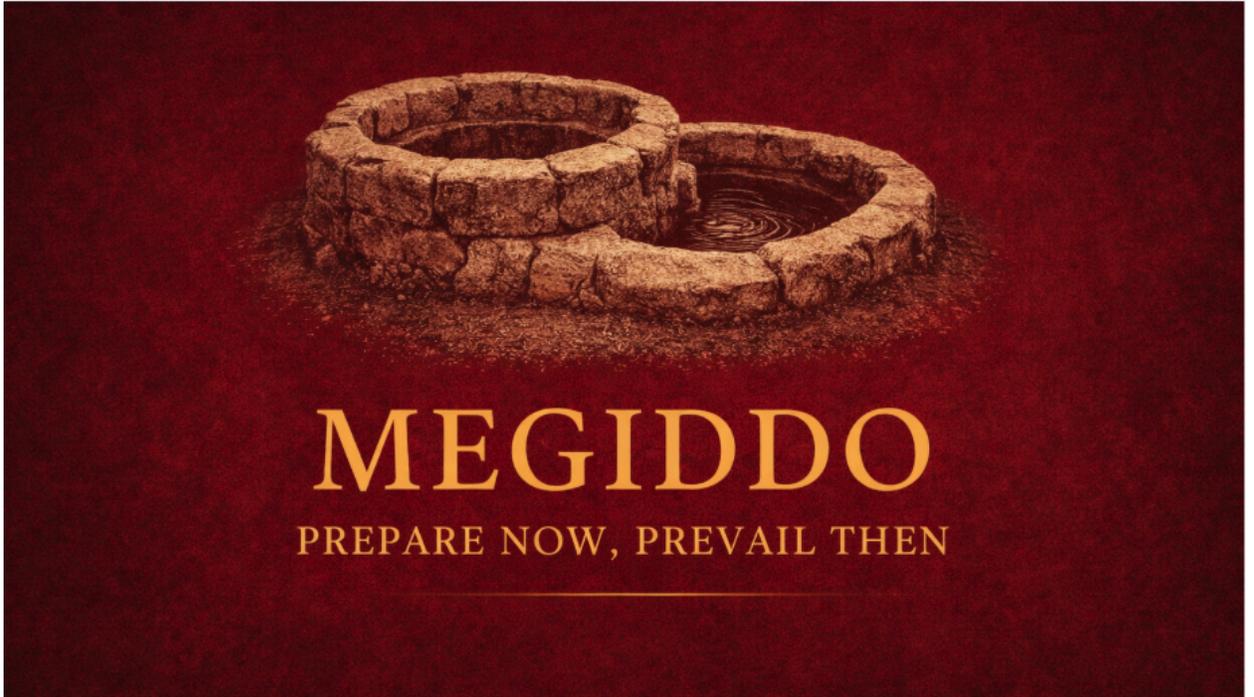
7. Hebron — **Purpose**

God's promises require a lifelong fight of faith that forms us into people who are raised to resurrection hope.

8. Megiddo — **Prevailing**

Our preparation now will cause us to prevail in the final and ultimate battle at the end of days.

As you can see from this slide, our message is titled:



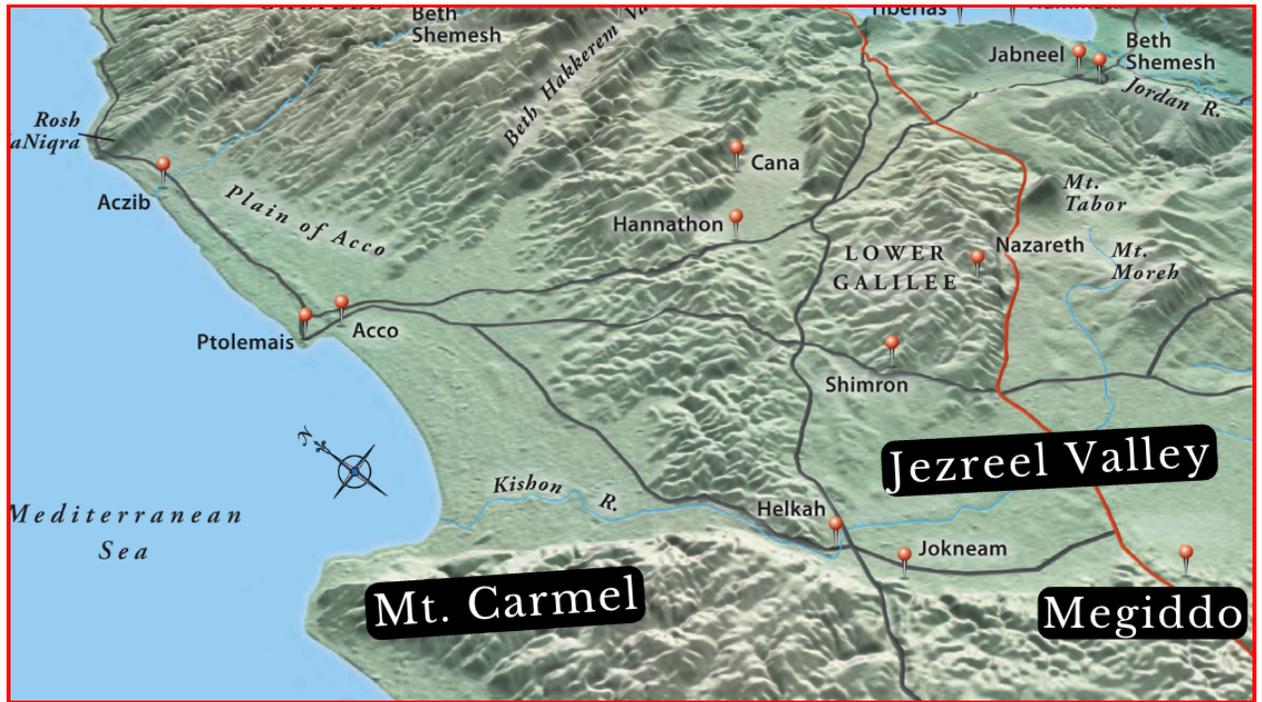
Let's start by giving you some idea of the area we are talking about.

Next slide:



This is the view standing on Tel Megiddo and looking into the Jezreel valley.

Next slide: **\*Point Megiddo area and Kishon river and Mt. Carmel\***



As you can see this region has been the epicenter of many climatic events.

Mt. Carmel borders Tel Migiddo, and the surrounding Jezzeel valley and overlooks the whole site.

To help you understand the historic and future weight of this geography we are going to pick up with one enigmatic event during the life of the prophet Elijah.

- **1 Kings 18:19 (ESV)**
- 19 Now therefore send and gather all Israel **to me at Mount Carmel**, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

The setting for Elijah's climactic stand at Mount Carmel overlooking Megiddo'

Let's pick up in:

- **1 Kings 18:20–22 (ESV)**
- 20 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together **at Mount Carmel**. 21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “**How long will you go limping between two different opinions?** If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.
  - Elijah's work primarily deals with the internal state of Israel's people
  - Elijah's call is about ensuring God's people leave no wiggle room in their opinions
  - Elijah is calling the people to **prepare** their hearts to stand with the Lord.
- **>Play Carmel video**

Let's continue:

- **1 Kings 18:22 (ESV)**
- 22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.

450 to 1 was not a disadvantage to Elijah.. In fact he will go on to do things like intentionally pour water on his offering

- **1 Kings 18:23-24 (ESV)**
- 23 Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put

no fire to it. 24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.”

Elijah confidently relied on the power of his God

He is doing this before the people of Israel to turn their hearts back to the Lord

Elijah knew that the people needed to be **prepared** to stand.

- **1 Kings 18:30–32 (ESV)**
- 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “**Come near to me.**” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. 31 **Elijah took twelve stones**, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” 32 and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed.

Why have the people come near? They didn't help Elijah. The point was for them to see and be prepared to stand in whole hearted service to the Lord. Elijah was not afraid of circumstances that appeared to put him at a disadvantage. In fact he invited it so that the people could see it. (these people standing back to watch what happens is literally people limping between two opinions...they are waiting to see who wins to determine who they are with)

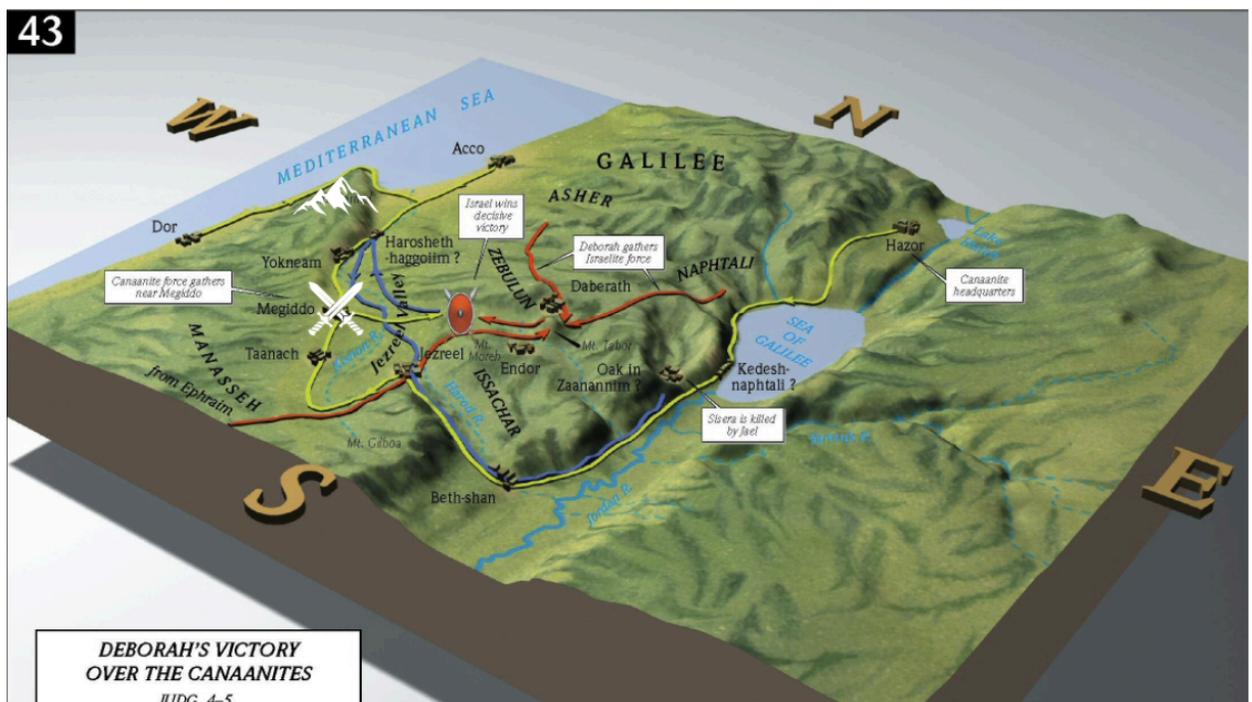
- **1 Kings 18:33–35 (ESV)**
- 33 And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” 34 And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time. 35 **And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.**

**The use of this water during a drought was a serious matter.**

Elijah knew the display was worth the cost. Elijah's preparation resulted in the people finding their conviction.

- **1 Kings 18:40 (ESV)**
- 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook **Kishon** and slaughtered them there.

The Kishon flows through the Jezreel valley right in front of Tel Megiddo. Let's pull that next slide up again:



They slaughter the prophets of Baal in the Jezreel valley. Elijah's mission was to turn the hearts of the people BACK to the Lord, and this is the location he chose to do it.



This is the area that the people of the east gathered to oppress Israel.

- **Recap a little**

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Elijah prepared the people and dealt with their internal state

Gideon is dealing with an external foe—people of the east who have gathered in the Jezreel valley to oppress Israel.

- **Judges 7:2 (ESV)**

- 2 The LORD said to Gideon, “The people with you are **too many** for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”

Adonai has never appreciated sharing glory... The supernatural cannot take place while we feel ourselves strong in our flesh. We are not allowed to rely on our own:

- Intellect
- Power
- Money
- Popularity

•

God has always worked with a few that were one in purpose. **OAC**...

- **Judges 7:3 (ESV)**

- 3 Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

God's battle plan for the deliverance of Israel included:

- Facing armies amassed in the Jezreel valley
- Removing those who had not prepared their **internal** state and were afraid

- Those who would **participate** in the deliverance of Israel were those who had previously prepared their hearts

Ukraine forcing every able bodied civilian to fight:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=ukrainian+young+men+being+dragged+to+fight&oq=ukrainian+young+men+being+dragged+to+fight&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRiPAjIHCAIQIRiPAtIBCDk4NDNqMGo3qAllsAIB8QWrkb8lf5qf4fEFq5G\\_JX-an-E&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:1ea127ad,vid:yVM6qo2SACE,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=ukrainian+young+men+being+dragged+to+fight&oq=ukrainian+young+men+being+dragged+to+fight&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRiPAjIHCAIQIRiPAtIBCDk4NDNqMGo3qAllsAIB8QWrkb8lf5qf4fEFq5G_JX-an-E&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:1ea127ad,vid:yVM6qo2SACE,st:0)

That was not the end of the sifting process.

- **Judges 7:4 (ESV)**
- 4 And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are **still too many**. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.”

Participation in the Lord's campaign has always been a privilege. God wasn't stressed about having enough men to win, it was an honor for those with Godly character to participate in fighting the Lord's battle.

- **Judges 7:5 (ESV)**
- 5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink.”

Those who laid their face down into the water to satisfy their thirst could not be used. Those who raised the water up while staying alert and focused on the situation...

- **Judges 7:6–8 (ESV)**
- 6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. 7 And the LORD said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.” 8 So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

God allowed the men who were **prepared** to stay ready and alert to **participate**. Small numbers and outward disadvantage has never been a problem for the Lord or those who rely on the Lord. This put the people where there was no wiggle room... you could only trust the Lord and the brothers on your left and right. Verse 12 tells us that the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the peoples of the East were in the Jezreel Valley like locusts in abundance, as many as sand on the seashore. Imagine being in the number of the 300!



Let's continue:

- **Judges 7:19–20 (ESV)**
- 19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. 20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the **torches**, and in their right hands the **trumpets** to blow. And they cried out, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”

We don't have the time to trace it out but the earthen jars are representative of our mortal lives. (2 Cor 4:7 - we have this treasure in jars of clay)

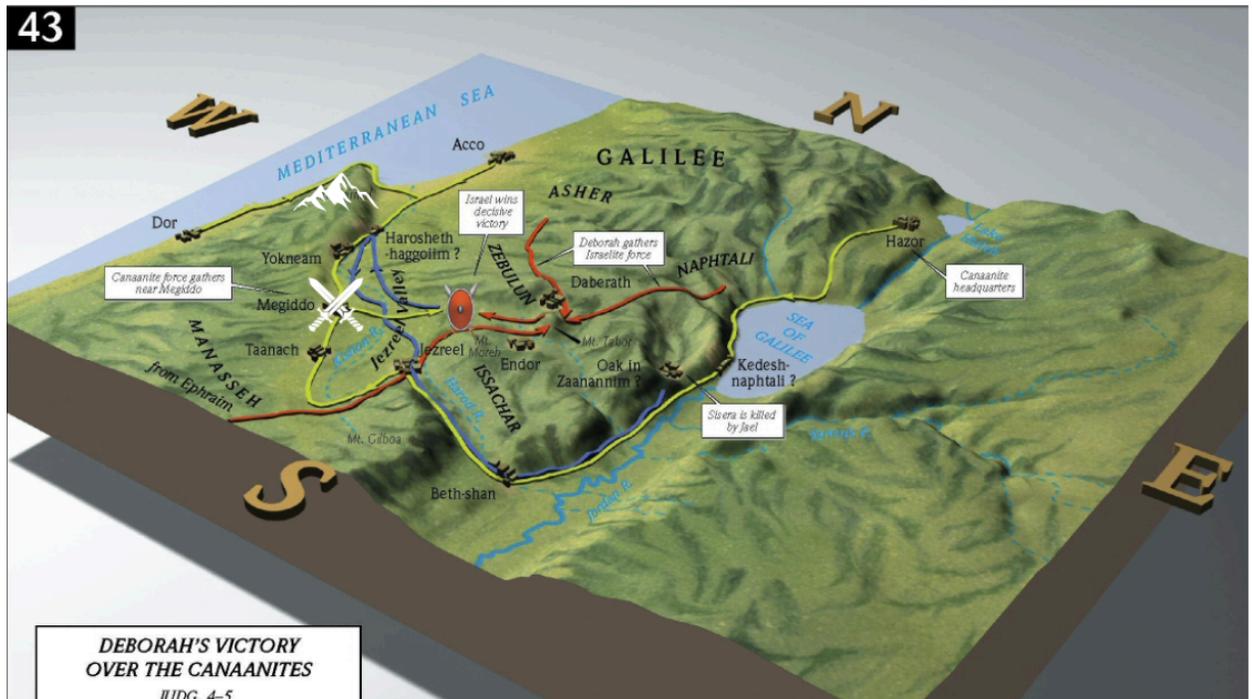
The torches are like the Spirit of God invested in us. The breaking of the jar and the unveiling of the Spirit that is a loud trumpet call is a message in and of itself. What you should be noticing is:

- Only those who had prepared and were not afraid made it through the first sifting
- Only those who had **prepared** and were alert rather than self absorbed were allowed to **participate**
- Those men followed divine battle instructions that left them at every worldly disadvantage but caused them to **prevail** together by trusting their God
- We started with Elijah's **preparations** in the hearts of God's people. With Gideon we saw the way the Lord sifted the group so that only those utterly dependent on the Lord **participated** in the battle. Let's go a little further back in time:

- **Judges 4:6–7 (ESV)**
- 6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the LORD, the God of

Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you **by the river Kishon** with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand’?”

Let's start with our map on our next slide:



Sisera had a massive professional army with Chariots and weapons. Some scholars have estimated his army to be well over 20,000 men + the chariots. Chariots in the plains of the field of Jezreel were a serious tactical advantage and naturally speaking a huge disadvantage to the Israelites.... Men on foot would be too slow to fight or retreat... like tanks in the ancient world. but as you have learned the man of God can never be put at a disadvantage

But as you've learned, the man of God is never at a disadvantage. The God of hosts, the Lord of heaven and earth, is not a God only of the plains. He is not a God only of the mountains. He owns it all.

When He owns the battlefield and He told you to stand there, there is nothing that will not move. There is nothing that will not break in the sight of those He has called to march.

I don't know if you've noticed this about God, but He likes to set a trap.

He does things like take His one and only Son and cause Him to become incarnate in what looked like weakness — nearly useless from a military perspective. Then He allows that Son to be crucified, and in doing so exposes Satan and every celestial power, overcoming them through resurrection.

He lets a weak man like Elijah stand surrounded by 450 prophets, where it looks like Elijah is going to die. But in the end, it is a trap that causes the prophets of Baal to fall.

He takes a man like Gideon — from the weakest tribe, the weakest clan, the weakest in his family — strips his army down to 300, divides them into smaller companies where it looks like certain death, and yet it is the enemy who dies.

The setting of the story we're in is a massive professional army with real weapons, real chariots, in perfect terrain. If Israel walks into the valley, naturally speaking, they are walking into a trap. There's no way to reach the chariots — you're not fast enough. There's no way to outrun them — you're not fast enough. It looks like a kill box, and it looks like Israel is on the wrong side of it.

But our God loves those kinds of scenarios.

And He turns the trap around.

What looks like certain defeat becomes the enemy's downfall.

Let's start to fill in some of characters: **\*\* Jabin is the mysterious enemy\***

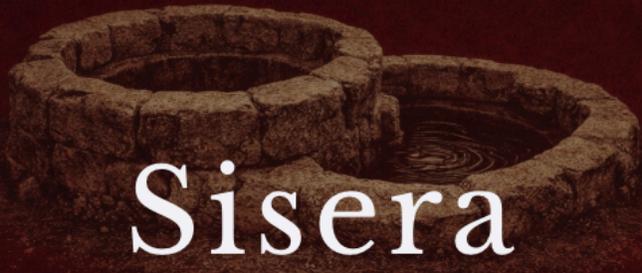


# Jabin

(Heb. Yabin', /ybly\*, **discerner**; Sept. )labi/\$(v.r. )labi/n, but )labei/n in Ps 83:9], Josephus )labi-no\$, Ant. 5, 5, ), the name of two kings of the Canaanitish city Hazor. See HAZOR. It was possibly a royal title, like Agag among the Amalekites and Abimelech among the Philistines.

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Jabin is the Discerner or He that understands. He rules from Hazor which is North of Galilee. He is the King in this story but stays in the back ground. This is like Satan. Now let's move to the general leading the enemy armies. Next slide:



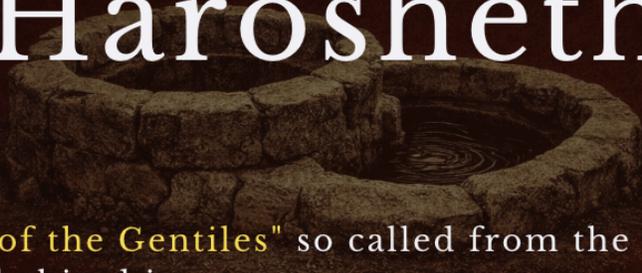
# Sisera

(Heb. Sisera', ar\*s=ys!, battle-array [Gesenius], or lieutenant

[Furst]; Sept. Sisa/ra v.r. [in Ezra and Nehemiah] Sisari/q, etc.; Josephus, o( Sisa/rh\$. [Ant. 5, 5, 4]), the name of two men.

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Sisera is the commander or the Battle-Array of the hidden King. Sisera is the enemy on the field in the story. Sisera lived and ruled from a place called Harosheth Ha Goyyim:

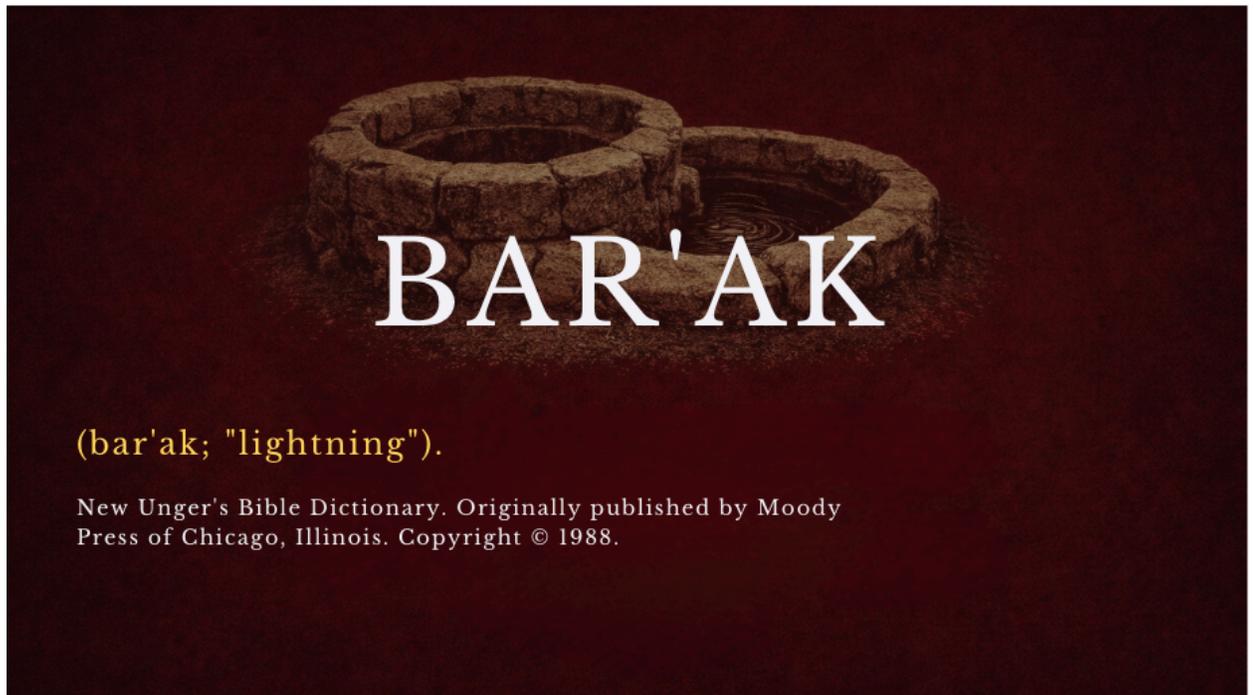


# Harosheth

(workshop) "of the Gentiles" so called from the mixed races that inhabited it -

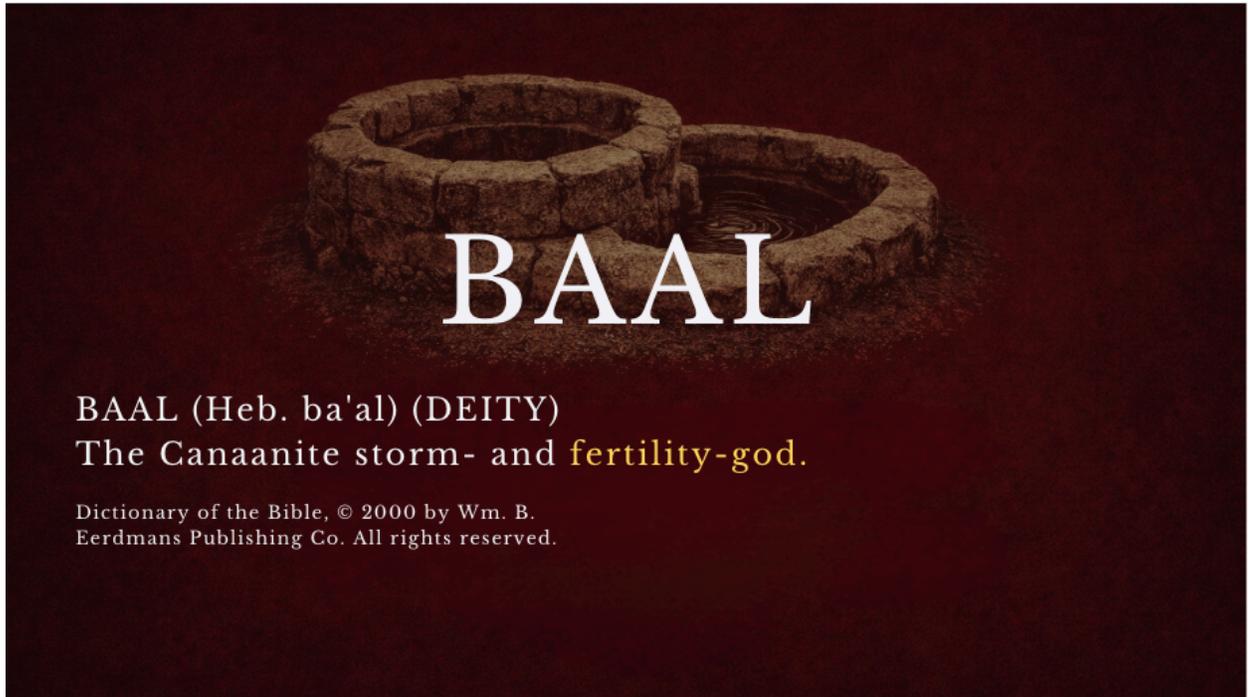
Smith's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database  
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Sisera's headquarters is the Workshop of the Gentiles. This is the present port city of Haifa to the West of the Sea of Galilee on the Mediterranean. Sisera takes on legendary qualities in Jewish lore. Let's move to the hero the general of Israel. **Next slide**



We can think of Barak as our reluctant co-hero who shows up like lightning when Adonai sends him and relies on the word of the Lord.

God's choosing of Barak (Whose name means lightning) was ironic because one of the major deities in the region was Baal the storm God. Let's take that **next slide:**



This is ironic, as if, YHWH defeated Baal with the forces of nature. This is the same region Elijah built his altar. This is the same region Gideon defeated the moon worshipers of the east

When you understand the names and geography in Judges 4:6–7, the basic outline of the story becomes clearer. The battle takes place between Megiddo and Mount Tabor in the Jezreel Valley. This is not the final battle associated with Har Megiddo—known in the New Testament as Armageddon (Revelation 16:16)—but it does occur in the same strategic region. Jabin remains largely behind the scenes, while Sisera commands the army from Harosheth Haggoyim, “the workshop of the nations.” Despite their military strength, including iron chariots, they are defeated by Deborah, Barak (“lightning”), and Jael. The chief deity of Canaan was Baal, making this more than a military conflict—it also carries theological significance.

- **Judges 5:1–2 (ESV)**
- 5 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:  
2 “That the leaders took the lead in Israel,

that the people offered themselves willingly,  
bless the LORD!

The major highlight of this prophetic recap is that God works through those who are willing...not the unwilling

This battle was not isolated to earthly affairs... in fact it involved the heavens.

- **Judges 5:19-21 (ESV)**
- 19 “The kings came, they fought;  
then fought the kings of Canaan,  
at Taanach, **by the waters of Megiddo**;  
they got no spoils of silver.

Earthly powers, participating for the Lord not for spoils.

20 From heaven the **stars** fought,  
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

Stars= Angels - heavenly powers

21 **The torrent Kishon swept them away,**  
the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon.  
March on, my soul, with might!

Prophetic picture in Deborah's song that gives more insight into the events. It is a pattern that repeats all the way to the book of Revelation. Supernatural rains. Destruction. **Heaven fights with the willing hearts who will fight to participate.**

This pattern that continues into Revelation also comes with a stern warning for all generations:

- **Judges 5:23–24 (ESV)**

- 23 “**Curse** Meroz, says the angel of the LORD,  
curse its inhabitants thoroughly,  
because they did not come to the help of the LORD,  
to the help of the LORD against the mighty.  
24 “Most blessed of women be Jael,  
the wife of Heber the Kenite,  
of tent-dwelling women most blessed.

We started this sermon with Elijah, who **prepared** the hearts of God's people on an internal level to ensure they could **prevail**. This occurred on Mount Carmel and the Jezreel valley surrounding Megiddo and the people **prevailed** over the prophets of Baal and their corrupting influences.

Gideon sift the people to see who had **prepared** their hearts so that they could **participate**. They **prevailed** over moon worshipers from the east of Israel. This occurred in the Jezreel valley on the plains surround Megiddo

Barak fought with those of God's people who had **prepared** themselves to be willing and ready. They **prevailed** on the earth and in the heavens over Satanic enemies. This occurred on the plains of Megiddo

[>Play Megiddo video](#)

We started today with Elijah's deeds surrounding Megiddo for a reason today. That is because his work did not end in kings and must continue before the final battle at Megiddo. Let's read:

- **Malachi 4:5–6 (ESV)**
- 5 “Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet **before** the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Elijah's ministry was turning the hearts of Israel back to the Lord and it included supernatural signs like calling down fire. Malachi says that he will come again before the great and awesome day of the Lord. The great day of the Lord in view is not the 1st coming of Christ but His second. I hope you caught that. Elijah must come before the great and awesome day of the Lord. Most Christians are aware of John the Baptizer's association but did you know that Jesus said Elijah is still to come.

- **Matthew 17:10–11 (ESV)**
- 10 And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” 11 He answered, “**Elijah does come, and he will (Future tense)** restore all things.

Jesus expected His followers (Among whom you are) to understand that Elijah was still yet to come. Where was Elijah's ministry again? What did he do? He turned the hearts of Israelis back to the Lord

Well that's curious.... Because revelation speaks of specific men who return, perform miracles and display God's wonders before Israel.

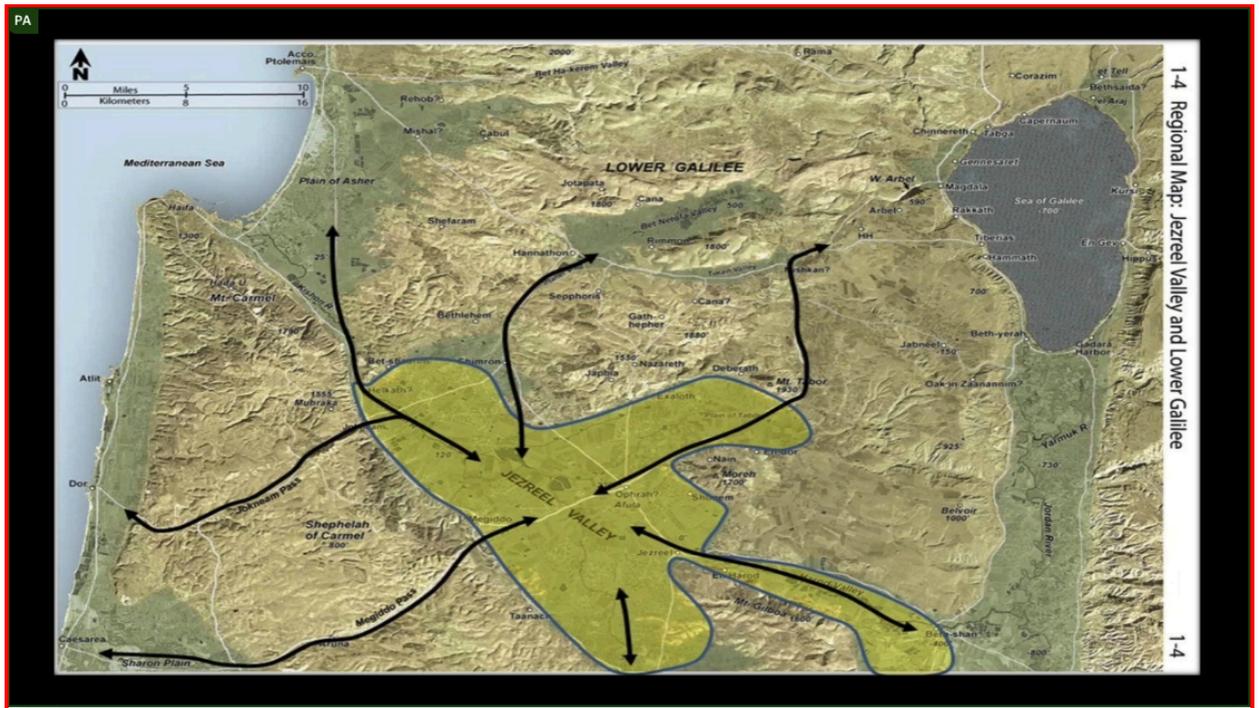
- **Revelation 11:3–6 (ESV)**
- 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”  
4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone would harm them, **fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes.** If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. 6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

At this place we do not have the time to fully teach things that are fairly obvious if you start at the right end of the book. Many of you are

already well aware of Moses and Elijah's association with these kinds of supernatural signs. Today, we are hoping that you catch the repetition of the pattern. Elijah's most famous moment in the past was in preparing the people to prevail. The end result of these events was the slaughter of God's enemies in the valley of Megiddo.

To be clear Elijah will return and perform the same function that he did in the past only to a much greater extent before the return of Jesus. He will perform this function and then it will lead to the slaughter of God's enemies once again in .... The valley of Megiddo.

Let's show you an **erial view** of the region we are talking about: **\*Don't read\***



This is the area surrounding Megiddo that is known as the Jezreel valley. As you can see there are several inlets as all the major roads to the center and west in Israel converge. It's geography forms a natural bottle neck for any army attacking Jerusalem from the north that requires all armies to stage here as they have many times in history.

Now let's show you a zoomed in view. **Next slide:**



This is the Tel of Megiddo and the lower lying area around it forms a bowl-like shape between the Tel and the mountains—it is reminiscent of an ancient **winepress**. - show in geography

Here is what an ancient winepress looked like:

Next slide:



Treading grapes like a winepress

Now! Let's go to Isaiah 63

- **Isaiah 63:3–6 (ESV)**
- 3“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. 4For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me.

6 I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

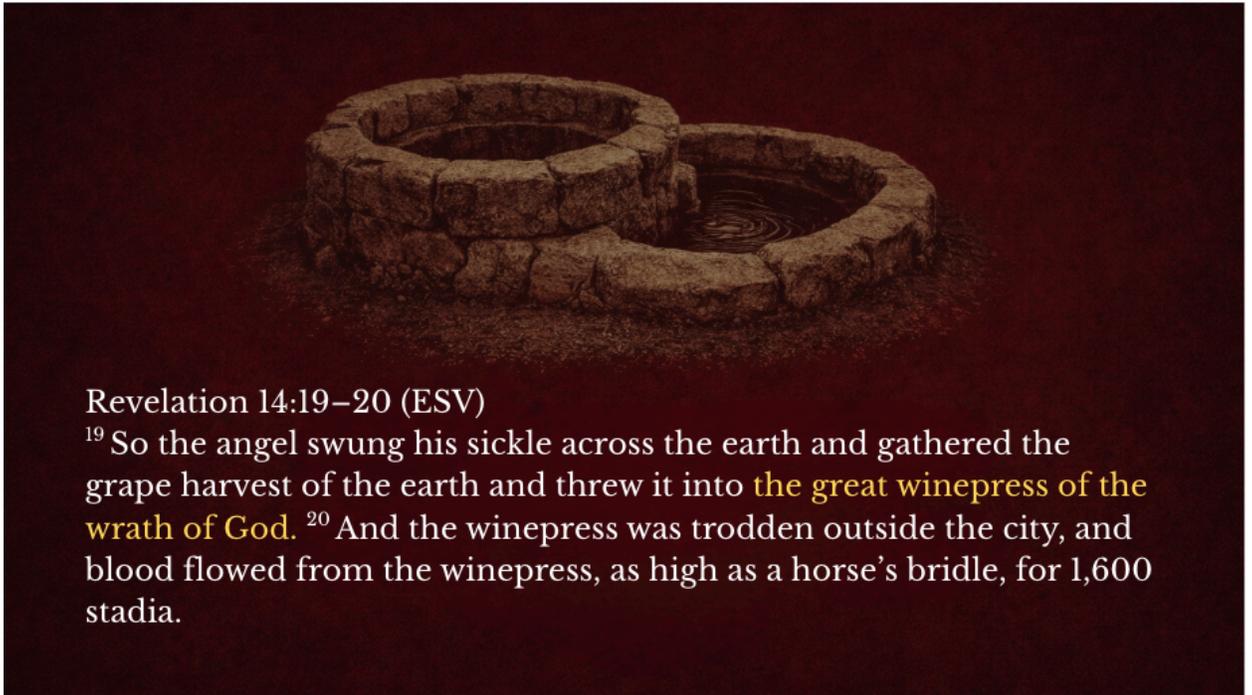
Isaiah predicts that the pattern of Megiddo will repeat, coming to an ultimate fulfillment.

Elijah:

- Will come and **prepare** the hearts of Israel,
- Willing men will **participate** the plans of God
- Men will **Prevail** with God as He arrives to redeem His people and execute vengeance on the workshop of the gentiles.

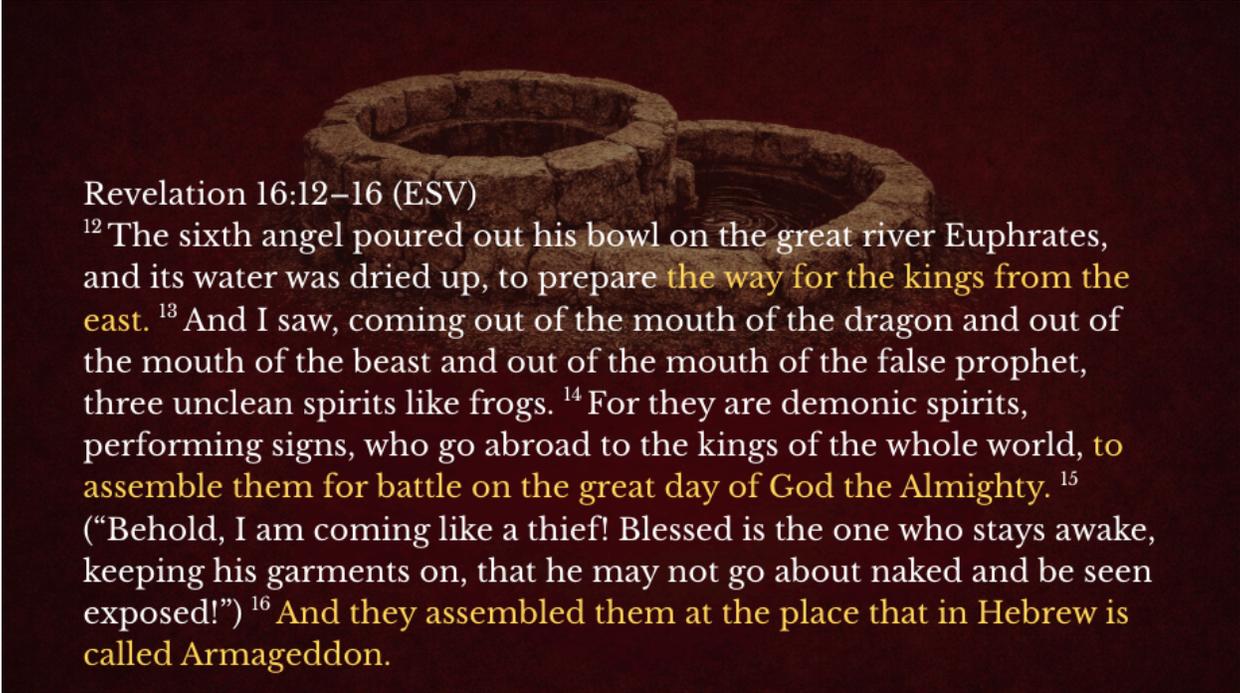
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Now let's examine how Revelation expounds upon this imagery:



Revelation 14:19–20 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into **the great winepress of the wrath of God**. <sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.



Revelation 16:12–16 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare **the way for the kings from the east.** <sup>13</sup> And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup> For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, **to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.** <sup>15</sup> (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) <sup>16</sup> **And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.**

The key to understanding your Bible is to follow the order that God Himself ordained. This is never any more true than when discussing the book of Revelation.

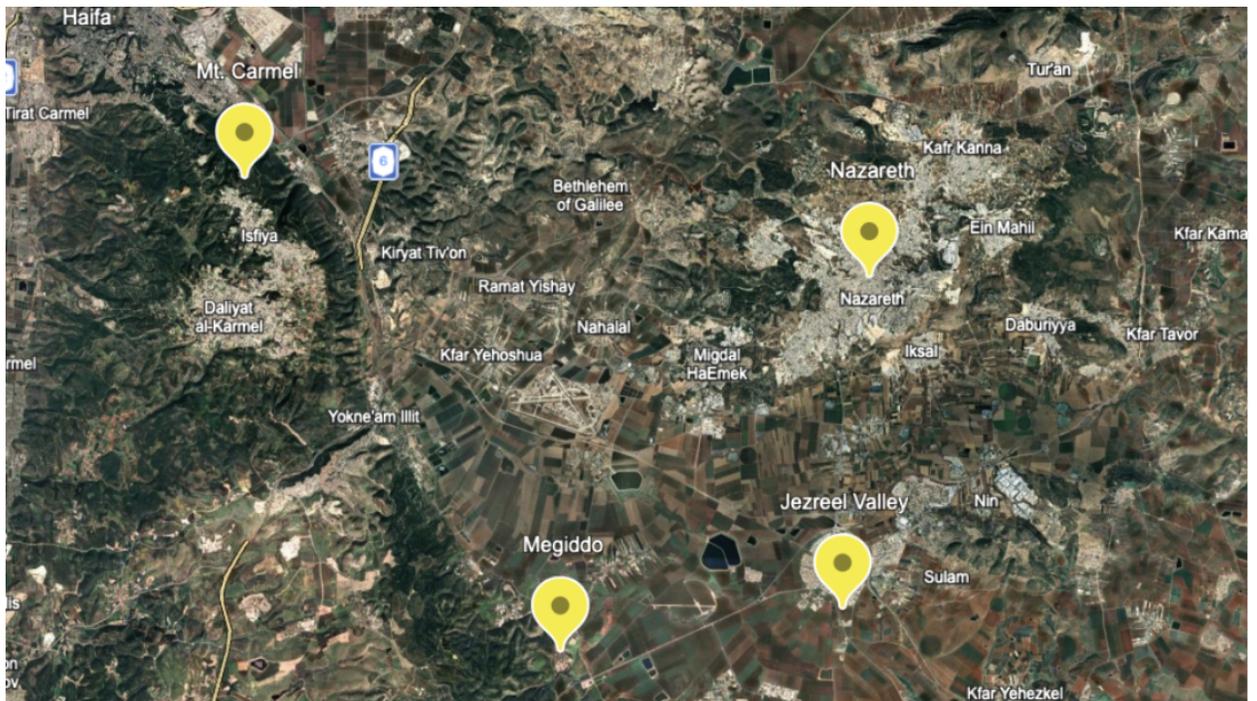
Throughout our teaching today we have been talking to you about the preparation. Even the way that Jesus' ministry unfolded according to the prophets, was preparing Him for the battle that He would one day face. Jesus was born in Bethelhem and was crucified in Jerusalem. His adult ministry took place in Capernaum. But He grew up in Nazareth.

- **Matthew 2:23 (NIV 1984)**
- “And he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: ‘He will be called a Nazarene.’”

Would you like to see the view Jesus had as He grew up?



The town that Jesus grew up in overlooked the valley of Megiddo. He could look out and point to Biblical stories that took place and understand what was prophesied about His future.



Standing in that valley, He could point and say, “That is where Elijah rebuilt the altar and confronted the prophets of Baal.” Or, “That is where Gideon’s men were sifted and the Lord brought about a great victory.” Or again, “There is where Deborah and Barak won a great battle, and the powers of heaven fought for them.” And in those same plains, Josiah—a righteous king—fell too soon and was mourned by the whole nation.

The prophet later wrote of that mourning:

- **Zechariah 12:10–11 (NIV 1984)**
- “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”

In addition to what we read in Revelation 16, Jesus would have grown up hearing these stories—of battle, of victory, of confrontation with Baal, and of a beloved king mourned in that very place. He was raised with the memory of that valley in view. His life moved steadily toward His own confrontation and His own piercing. The future battles were never distant; they were always in sight.

In the same way, you are to recognize that all the battles you are facing now are preparing you for greater battles in the future. This will help you to recognize these battles that you're facing with your spouse, with your children, with your friends, ministry partners, coworkers, strangers are not just about right now, you are being prepared for what is to come. Learn to live with that view.

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You have seen

<<Megiddo to Nazereth.mov>>

en at Megiddo Elijah's **preparation** in the lives of Israel, solidifying their convictions so that they can **prevail** against the prophets of Baal.

You have seen at Megiddo Gideon's **preparations** that determined who would **participate** in the supernatural battle that caused the people of God to **prevail**

You have seen at Megiddo Barack's battle with celestial powers and the willing hearts among Israel that prevailed over superior enemies.

**Recap: and highlight #8 as today's message\***

## Encountering Israel: Deepening Convictions

### 1. Gihon — **Awakening**

God initiated salvation; His life begins to flow through the man of God, and the heart of man is opened.

### 2. Hermon — **Confrontation**

The enemy resists, identity is contested, and through this process, conviction is forged.

### 3. Kidron — **Decision**

Daily choices shape destiny, and salvation becomes, not just a moment, but a path both lived and walked upon.

### 4. Valley of Kings — **Pressing**

God refines through pressure; obedience is perfected, and anointing is produced.

### 5. Adullam — **Formation**

Seasons of hidden obscurity develop kings—disciples become leaders, and what was just a calling becomes ingrained character.

### 6. Tabernacle — **Assembly**

The dwelling of God is built with unlikely materials that are stripped down and covered with hammered gold.

### 7. Hebron — **Purpose**

God's promises require a lifelong fight of faith that forms us into people who are raised to resurrection hope.

### 8. Megiddo — **Prevailing**

Our preparation now will cause us to prevail in the final and ultimate battle at the end of days.

Culminating at Megiddo today, this pathway equips us for more than just making it and sliding through the finish line, but to actually prevail as victorious warriors together with Christ at His ultimate triumph. We are positioning ourselves to stand at Megiddo on that day and to inherit the promises of Christ's resurrection hope.

Drive home:

- Preparation
- Willing participation
- So that you and your generations can prevail.