

## Backdrop: The Valley of Jezreel

*They assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. Revelation 16:16*

### 1. The city of Jezreel

- Location:
  - In the southeast end of the Jezreel Valley
  - South of Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee
  - Southeast of Mount Carmel
  - Northwest of Bet Shean



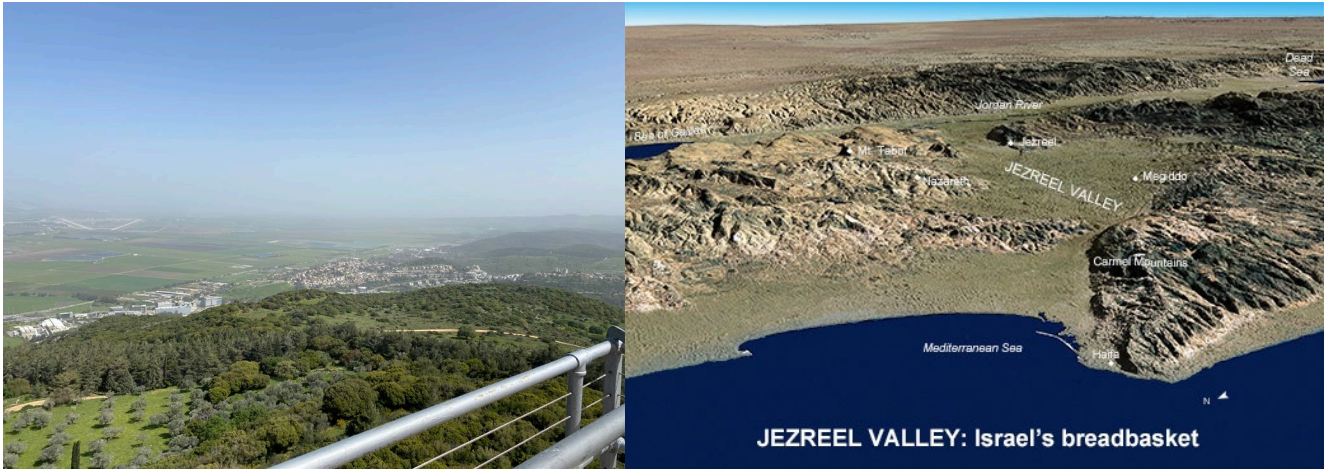
- Importance of Jezreel
  - Served as a co-capital of the Northern Kingdom
  - Ahab and Jezebel spent a significant amount of time there.
  - Elijah, on foot, outran Ahab in a chariot from Mount Carmel to Jezreel (1 Kings 18:41-46).
  - It was the site of Naboth's vineyard, which Ahab and Jezebel stole through conspiracy and murder (1 Kings 21:1-16)
  - Jezebel died at the hand of Jehu in Jezreel to fulfill prophecy:

*Of Jezebel the LORD also said, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.'* **1 Kings 21:23**

- Jezreel
  - Was used as a prophetic term for the judgement of the Northern Kingdom (Hosea 1:4-5)
  - And as a promise of restoration for both Northern and Southern Kingdoms (Hosea 1:11-2:1).

### 2. The valley of Jezreel

- Description:
  - 10 miles wide
  - Very fertile
  - Runs in a southeast/northeast direction
  - Extends from the Mediterranean Sea to just west of the Jordan River
  - Is located just south of Galilee



- Jezreel as the perfect ancient battlefield
- Battles at Jezreel
  - Deborah, Barak, and Sisera Judges 4
  - Gideon vs Midianites Judges 6
  - Saul's death 1 Samuel 29-30
  - Josiah's death 2 Kings 23

Speaking of the limited entrances into the valley of Jezreel George Adam Smith in *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land* notes:

“With our eyes on these entrances, and remembering that they are not merely glens into neighboring provinces, but passes to the sea and to the desert—gates on the great road between the empires of Euphrates and Nile, between the continents of Asia and Africa—we are ready for the arrival of those armies of all nations whose ceaseless contests have rendered this plain the classic battle-ground of Scripture. Was every arena so simple, so regulated for the spectacle of war? Jezreel is a vast theater, with its clearly-defined stage, with its proper exits and entrances.”