

## ~GILBOA (133)

(Gil-bo'a) [possibly, Hill Country]

- A mountain traditionally identified with **Jebel Fuqu`ah**, a crescent-shaped ridge of limestone hills lying East of the Plain of Jezreel and West-southwest of Beth-shean. Ravines divide the range into several plateaus.
- Much of it is barren rock, with rugged channels in the northern and western parts, where chalk has been eroded. But wheat and barley are cultivated on the gradual western slopes.
- Also, pastureland, as well as fig and olive trees, can be found there. The northern side is the steepest and highest, rising to about 520 meters (1,700 feet) above sea level.
- Because of its strategic location East of the fertile Plain of Jezreel between the torrent valley of Kishon and the Jordan Valley, **Gilboa** figured in at least two major battles.
- At the well of Harod, commonly linked with the spring located on the Northwest spur of **Gilboa**, Gideon and his men encamped.
- Then Jerubbaal, that is to say; Gideon, and all the people who were with him, rose early and took up camping at the well of Harod, and the camp of Midian happened to be on the north of him, at the hill of Moreh, in the low plain. (**Judges 7:1**)
- Later, King Saul gathered his forces to **Gilboa** and there suffered defeat at the hands of the Philistines. There too, three of his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, were slain and Saul himself committed suicide.
- Subsequently the Philistines collected together and came and pitched camp in Shunem. So Saul collected all Israel together and they pitched camp in **Gilboa**. (**1 Samuel 28:4**)
- Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel took to flight from before the Philistines, and they kept falling down slain in Mount **Gilboa**. (**1 Samuel 31:1**)
- And the Philistines kept in close range of Saul and his sons, and

the Philistines at last struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. (1 Samuel 31:2)

- And the fighting became heavy against Saul, and the shooters, the bowmen, finally found him, and he got severely wounded by the shooters. (1 Samuel 31:3)
- Then Saul said to his armor-bearer; Draw your sword and run me through with it, that these uncircumcised men may not come and certainly run me through and deal abusively with me. And his armor-bearer was unwilling, because he was very much afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell upon it. (1 Samuel 31:4)
- And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his three sons fallen upon Mount Gilboa. (1 Samuel 31:8)
- And David went on to say to him; How did the matter turn out? Tell me, please. To this he said; The people have fled from the battle and also many of the people have fallen so that they died, and even Saul and Jonathan his son have died. (2 Samuel 1:4)
- Then David said to the young man that was telling him; How do you really know that Saul has died and also Jonathan his son? (2 Samuel 1:5)
- At this the young man that was telling him said; I unexpectedly chanced to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul supporting himself upon his spear, and, look! The charioteers and the mounted men had caught up with him. (2 Samuel 1:6)
- When he turned back and saw me, then he called me, and I said; Here I am! (2 Samuel 1:7)
- And he went on to say to me; Who are you? At which I said to him, I am an Amalekite. (2 Samuel 1:8)
- Then he said; Stand, please, over me and definitely put me to death, for the cramp has seized me, because all my soul is yet in me. (2 Samuel 1:9)
- So I stood over him and definitely put him to death, for I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. Then I took the diadem that was upon his head and the bracelet that was upon his arm,

that I might bring them to my lord here. (2 Samuel 1:10)

- You mountains of **Gilboa**, let no dew, let no rain be upon you, nor let there be fields of holy contributions, because there the shield of mighty ones was befouled, the shield of Saul, so that there was none anointed with oil. (2 Samuel 1:21)
- And the Philistines, for their part, made war upon Israel, and the men of Israel went fleeing from before the Philistines and kept falling slain in Mount **Gilboa**. (1 Chronicles 10:1)
- And the Philistines kept in close range of Saul and his sons, and the Philistines got to strike down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, sons of Saul. (1 Chronicles 10:2)
- And the fighting became heavy against Saul, and those shooting with the bow finally found him, and he got wounded by the shooters. (1 Chronicles 10:3)
- Then Saul said to his armor-bearer; Draw your sword and run me through with it, that these uncircumcised men may not come and certainly deal abusively with me. And his armor-bearer was unwilling, because he was very much afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell upon it. (1 Chronicles 10:4)
- When his armor-bearer saw that Saul had died, then he too fell upon the sword and died. (1 Chronicles 10:5)
- Thus Saul and three sons of his died, and all those of his house died together. (1 Chronicles 10:6)
- When all the men of Israel that were in the low plain saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, then they began to leave their cities and flee, after which the Philistines came on in and took up dwelling in them. (1 Chronicles 10:7)
- And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his sons fallen upon Mount **Gilboa**. (1 Chronicles 10:8)