

~HAROD (96)
(Ha'rod) [Trembling]

- A well, spring or fountain, as this is the usual meaning of the Hebrew word, although the Hebrew words for well and fountain are sometimes used interchangeably.
- Later Yehowah's angel found her at a **fountain** of waters in the wilderness, at the **fountain** on the way to Shur. (**Genesis 16:7**)
- That is why the well was called Beerlahairoi. Here it is between Kadesh and Bered. (**Genesis 16:14**)
- Eventually he had the camels kneel down outside the city at a **well** of water about evening time, about the time that the women who draw water were accustomed to go out. (**Genesis 24:11**)
- Here I am stationed at a **fountain** of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. (**Genesis 24:13**)
- In the vicinity of which the Israelite army under Gideon's leadership encamped and where, later, the reduced force of 10,000 was put to the proof.
- Subsequently 300 men were selected to rout the Midianites. The earlier departure of 22,000 Israelites because of their being afraid and trembling may have been the reason for giving the well its name.
- 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**)
- Yehowah now said to Gideon; The people who are with you are too many for me to give Midian into their hand. Perhaps Israel would brag about itself against me, saying; My hand it was that saved me. (**Judges 7:2**)
- And now call out, please, in the hearing of the people, saying; Who is there afraid and trembling? Let him retire. So Gideon put them to the proof. With that, twenty-two thousand of the people

retired, and there were ten thousand that remained. (Judges 7:3)

- Still Yehowah said to Gideon; There are yet too many people. Have them go down to the water that I may put them to the proof for you there. And it must occur that of whomever I say to you, This one will go with you, he is one that will go with you, but every one of whom I say to you; This one will not go along with you, he is one that will not go along. (Judges 7:4)
- So he had the people go down to the water. Then Yehowah said to Gideon; Every one that laps up some of the water with his tongue just as a dog laps, you will set him by himself, also every one that bends down upon his knees to drink. (Judges 7:5)
- And the number of those lapping with their hand to their mouth turned out to be three hundred men. As for all the rest of the people, they bent down upon their knees to drink water. (Judges 7:6)
- Yehowah now said to Gideon; By the three hundred men who did the lapping I shall save you people, and I will give Midian into your hand. As for all the other people, let them go each one to his place. (Judges 7:7)
- The well of **Harod** has been traditionally identified with **`Ain Jalud**, **Mayan Harod**, a spring rising on the Northwest spur of Mount Gilboa.
- Regarding **`Ain Jalud** the noted scholar **G. A. Smith** observed: **It bursts some fifteen feet, less than 5 meters, broad and two 0.6 meters, deep from the foot of Gilboa, and mainly out of it, but fed also by the other two springs `Ain el-Meiyiteh and `Ain Tuba`un, it flows strongly enough to work six or seven mills.**
- The deep bed and soft banks of this stream constitute a formidable ditch in front of the position on Gilboa, and render it possible for defenders of the latter to hold the spring at their feet in face of an enemy on the plain: and the spring is indispensable to them, for neither to the left, right, nor rear is other living water.
- The stream, which makes it possible for the occupiers of the hill to hold also the well against the enemy on the plain, forbids them to be careless in using the water, for they drink in face of that enemy, and

the reeds and shrubs which mark its course afford cover for hostile ambushes. [The Historical Geography of the Holy Land, London, 1968, p. 258]