

~JABBOK, TORRENT VALLEY OF (103) **(Jab'bok)**

- One of the main torrent valleys, or wadis, East of the Jordan, first mentioned in Scripture with reference to Jacob's crossing the ford of **Jabbok** with his household. Also, near this ford Jacob grappled with an angel.
- Later during that night he rose and took his two wives and his two maidservants and his eleven young sons and crossed over the ford of **Jabbok**. (**Genesis 32:22**)
- So he took them and brought them over the torrent valley, and he brought over what he had. (**Genesis 32:23**)
- Finally Jacob was left by himself. Then a man began to grapple with him until the dawn ascended. (**Genesis 32:24**)
- When he got to see that he had not prevailed over him, then he touched the socket of his thigh joint, and the socket of Jacob's thigh joint got out of place during his grappling with him. (**Genesis 32:25**)
- After that he said; Let me go, for the dawn has ascended. To this he said; I am not going to let you go until you first bless me. (**Genesis 32:26**)
- So he said to him; What is your name? To which he said; Jacob. (**Genesis 32:27**)
- Then he said; Your name will no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have contended with God and with men so that you at last prevailed. (**Genesis 32:28**)
- In turn Jacob inquired and said; Tell me, please, your name. However, he said; Why is it that you inquire for my name? With that he blessed him there. (**Genesis 32:29**)
- Hence Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, because, to quote him, I have seen God face to face and yet my soul was delivered. (**Genesis 32:30**)

- Though the **Jabbok's** headwaters rise near **Amman**, ancient Rabbah, the wadi collects waters from several perennial streams and numerous winter torrents before flowing into the Jordan 39 kilometers (24 miles) North of the Dead Sea.
- Only about 40 kilometers (25 miles) separate the source of the torrent valley from its finish, but the **Jabbok's** semicircular course covers about 100 kilometers (62 miles).
- Its modern Arabic name, Wadi Zarqa, literally means, **Torrent Valley of Blue**. Perhaps this name is derived from the gray-blue color that the **Jabbok** exhibits when seen from a distance. Small fish abound in its shallow, easily fordable waters.
- Oleander bushes and many kinds of small trees line the deep fertile valley through which the **Jabbok** flows. This valley, with its steep sides, served as a natural boundary.
- And to the Reubenites and the Gadites I have given from Gilead to the torrent valley of Arnon, the middle of the torrent valley being a boundary, and as far as **Jabbok**, the torrent valley that is the boundary of the sons of Ammon. (**Deuteronomy 3:16**)
- The first section of the torrent valley, running from South to North, once constituted a frontier between the Ammonites and the Amorites.
- At that Israel struck him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the **Jabbok**, near the sons of Ammon, because Jazer is the border of the sons of Ammon. (**Numbers 21:24**)
- Whereas the section extending from West to East split Gilead in two and formed the boundary between the realms of Amorite Kings Sihon and Og.
- Only you did not go near the land of the sons of Ammon, the whole bank of the torrent valley of **Jabbok**, nor the cities of the mountainous region, nor anything about which Yehowah our God had given command. (**Deuteronomy 2:37**)
- Sihon the king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, ruling from Aroer, which was on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the middle of the torrent valley, and half of Gilead as far as

**Jabbok the torrent valley, the boundary of the sons of Ammon.
(Joshua 12:2)**

- **So the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah; It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and as far as the Jordan. And now do return it peacefully. (Judges 11:13)**
- **Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (Judges 11:22)**
- **Today this same valley is one of the best routes for crossing the Jordan from what was anciently called Gilead.**