

~JEZREEL 5 (147)

(Jez're-el) [God Will Sow Seed, Jezreelite, Jez're-el-ite]

- The geographic area embraced by the Low Plain of **Jezreel**. This designation is often restricted to the low plain extending in a southeasterly direction from the city of Jezreel in Issachar to Beth-shean on the western edge of the Jordan Valley.
- But the designation, Valley of **Jezreel**, is also used today to include the low plain West of **Jezreel**, the **Plain of Esdraelon**, the **Greek** form of the **Hebrew Jezreel**.
- Therefore, in the broad sense the **Valley of Jezreel** includes the whole plain from the Carmel Range to the Jordan River.
- Situated at the edge of a rocky descent, the city of **Jezreel**, **Zer`in** overlooks the entire eastern part of the Low Plain of **Jezreel**, extending southeastward for nearly 19 kilometers (12 miles) and measuring about 3 kilometers (2 miles) in width.
- In the time of Joshua this area was controlled by Canaanites having a strong, well-equipped chariotry.
- Then the sons of Joseph said; The mountainous region is not enough for us, and there are war chariots with iron scythes among all the Canaanites dwelling in the land of the low plain, both those who are in Beth-shean and its dependent towns and those who are in the low plain of **Jezreel**. (**Joshua 17:16**)
- It was also in the Low Plain of **Jezreel** that Gideon and his 300 men witnessed Yehowah's saving hand as the enemy forces of the Midianites, Amalekites, and Easterners turned against one another in confusion.
- And all Midian and Amalek and the Easterners gathered together as one and proceeded to cross over and camp in the low plain of **Jezreel**. (**Judges 6:33**)
- Now Midian and Amalek and all the Easterners were plumped in the low plain as numerous as locusts, and their camels were without number, as numerous as the grains of sand that are on the seashore. (**Judges 7:12**)

- **Gideon now came, and, look! There was a man relating a dream to his companion, and he went on to say; Here is a dream that I have dreamed. And, look! There was a round cake of barley bread turning over and over into the camp of Midian. Then it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell, and it went turning it upside down, and the tent fell flat. ([Judges 7:13](#))**
- **At this his companion answered and said; This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. The true God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand. ([Judges 7:14](#))**
- **And it came about that as soon as Gideon heard the relating of the dream and its explanation, he began to worship. After that he returned to the camp of Israel and said; Get up, for Yehowah has given the camp of Midian into your hand. ([Judges 7:15](#))**
- **Then he divided the three hundred men up into three bands and put horns in the hands of all of them and large empty jars, and torches inside the large jars. ([Judges 7:16](#))**
- **And he went on to say to them; You should learn from watching me, and that is how you should do. And when I am come to the edge of the camp, it must also occur that just as I shall do, so you will do. ([Judges 7:17](#))**
- **When I have blown the horn, I and all who are with me, you also must blow the horns, you too, round about all the camp, and you must say; Yehowah's and Gideon's! ([Judges 7:18](#))**
- **In time Gideon came with the hundred men who were with him to the edge of the camp at the start of the middle night watch. They had just got through posting the sentries. And they proceeded to blow the horns, and there was a dashing to pieces of the large water jars that were in their hands. ([Judges 7:19](#))**
- **At that the three bands blew the horns and shattered the large jars and took fresh hold on the torches with their left hand and with their right hand on the horns to blow them, and they began calling out; Yehowah's sword and Gideon's! ([Judges 7:20](#))**
- **All the while they kept standing each one in his place all around the camp, and the whole camp got on the run and broke out into**

shouting and went fleeing. (**Judges 7:21**)

- And the three hundred continued to blow the horns, and Yehowah proceeded to set the sword of each one against the other in all the camp, and the camp kept up their flight as far as Beth-shittah, on to Zererah, as far as the outskirts of Abel-meholah by Tabbath. (**Judges 7:22**)
- Later, the Israelite army under King Saul, when facing the enemy Philistines, encamped by the spring in **Jezreel**, perhaps **`Ain Jalud** on the Northwest spur of Mount Gilboa or **`Ain el-Meiyiteh** below the town of **Zer`in**.
- Thereafter, from **Jezreel** report was received about the deaths of Saul and his son Jonathan.
- And the Philistines proceeded to collect all their camps together at Aphek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring that was in **Jezreel**. (**1 Samuel 29:1**)
- Accordingly David rose up early, he and his men, to go in the morning and return to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines themselves went up to **Jezreel**. (**1 Samuel 29:11**)
- Now Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son lame in the feet. Five years old he happened to be when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from **Jezreel**, and his nurse began to carry him and flee, but it came about that as she was running in panic to flee, he then had a fall and was lamed. And his name was Mephibosheth. (**2 Samuel 4:4**)
- **Jezreel** and its vicinity then came to be part of the territory ruled by Saul's son Ish-bosheth.
- As for Abner the son of Ner the chief of the army that had belonged to Saul, he took Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, and proceeded to bring him across to Mahanaim. (**2 Samuel 2:8**)
- And to make him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and **Jezreel** and over Ephraim and Benjamin and over Israel, all of it. (**2 Samuel 2:9**)
- And while Solomon reigned, the assignment of the deputy Baana included the fertile Plain of **Jezreel**.

- **And Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (1 Kings 4:7)**
- **Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (1 Kings 4:12)**