

~KISHON, TORRENT VALLEY OF (163) (Ki'shon)

- A stream identified as the **Nahr el-Muqatta`**, **Nahal Qishon**. The **Kishon** winds its way in a northwesterly direction from the hills near Taanach through the Plain of Jezreel, or **Esdraelon**, **`Emeq Yizre`el**, and, after flowing through a narrow gorge between Mount Carmel and a spur of the Galilean hills, enters the Plain of Acco or Acre before finally emptying into the Mediterranean.
- The airline distance from the **Kishon's** sources to its mouth at the Bay of Acco is about 37 kilometers (23 miles). Approximately 6 meters (20 feet) wide in the spring, the portion of the **Kishon** flowing through the Plain of Jezreel increases in width by some 3 meters (10 feet) in the western section of the plain.
- The **Kishon's** greatest width of about 20 meters (66 feet) is reached in the Plain of Acco. With the exception of about the last 10 kilometers (6 miles) of its course, the **Kishon** is usually dry during the summer.
- But in the rainy season it becomes a rushing torrent, flooding its banks and sweeping everything in its path. The plain through which the **Kishon** flows then becomes a marshy region.
- In the time of Barak and Deborah the torrent valley of Kishon figured in the deliverance of the Israelites from Canaanite oppression. Barak and his troops took a position on Mount Tabor, this action drawing army chief Sisera, with his well-equipped forces and 900 chariots, to the Kishon.
- And she proceeded to send and call Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali and to say to him; Has not Yehowah the God of Israel given the command? Go and you must spread yourself out on Mount Tabor, and you must take with you ten thousand men out of the sons of Naphtali and out of the sons of Zebulun. (Judges 4:6)
- And I shall certainly draw to you at the torrent valley of **Kishon**, Sisera the chief of Jabin's army and his war chariots and his crowd, and I shall indeed give him into your hand. (Judges 4:7)

- Then they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. (**Judges 4:12**)
- At once Sisera called together all his war chariots, the nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and all the people that were with him, out of Harosheth of the nations to the torrent valley of **Kishon**. (**Judges 4:13**)
- The Israelites appeared to be at a military disadvantage. Yet, when directed to do so, Barak and his 10,000 men descended from Mount Tabor to engage the enemy in battle.
- Yehowah God then intervened. From heaven did the stars fight, from their orbits they fought against Sisera.
- Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (**Judges 4:14**)
- And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before Barak. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight on foot. (**Judges 4:15**)
- From heaven did the stars fight, from their orbits they fought against Sisera. (**Judges 5:20**)
- According to the traditional Jewish view expressed in the writings of Josephus, **there came up a great tempest with torrents of rain and hail, and the wind drove the rain in the faces of the Canaanites, obscuring their vision, so that their bows and their slings were of no service to them.** [**Jewish Antiquities, V, 205, v, 4**]
- Such a downpour would have turned the ground to mud, immobilizing chariots and causing horses to sink into the mire and the enemy to flee in terror before Barak's men. By whatever means, with Yehowah's help, all the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained.
- And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before Barak. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight

on foot. (**Judges 4:15**)

- **And Barak chased after the war chariots and the camp as far as Harosheth of the nations, so that all the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained. (**Judges 4:16**)**
- **Do to them as to Midian, as to Sisera, as to Jabin at the torrent valley of Kishon. (**Psalms 83:9**)**
- **They were annihilated at En-dor, they became manure for the ground. (**Psalms 83:10**)**
- **Apparently the treacherous torrent of Kishon swept the corpses of the enemy away.**
- **The torrent of Kishon washed them away, the torrent of ancient days, the torrent of Kishon. You went treading down strength, O my soul. (**Judges 5:21**)**
- **Sisera himself escaped on foot, to suffer inglorious death by the hand of a woman, Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite.**
- **As for Sisera, he fled on foot to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the household of Heber the Kenite. (**Judges 4:17**)**
- **Then Jael came on out to meet Sisera and said to him; Turn this way, my lord, turn this way to me. Do not be afraid. So he turned aside to her into the tent. Later she covered him with a blanket. (**Judges 4:18**)**
- **In time he said to her; Give me, please, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty. Accordingly she opened a skin bottle of milk and gave him a drink, after which she covered him. (**Judges 4:19**)**
- **And he went on to say to her; Stand at the entrance of the tent, and it must occur that if anybody comes and does ask you and says, Is there a man here? You must then say; No! (**Judges 4:20**)**
- **And Jael the wife of Heber proceeded to take a pin of the tent and to put the hammer into her hand. Then she went to him stealthily and drove the pin into his temples and beat it into the earth, while he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. (**Judges****

4:21)

- **Later, during the reign of Israel's King Ahab, the prophet Elijah slaughtered 450 prophets of Baal at the torrent valley of Kishon.**
- **And Elijah went on to say to the people; I myself have been left as a prophet of Yehowah, I alone, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men. (1 Kings 18:22)**
- **Then Elijah said to them; Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape! At once they seized them, and Elijah then brought them down to the torrent valley of Kishon and slaughtered them there. (1 Kings 18:40)**
- **The waters of Megiddo.**
- **Kings came, they fought. It was then that the kings of Canaan fought in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. No gain of silver did they take. (Judges 5:19)**
- **And the torrent valley that is in front of Jokneam.**
- **And their boundary went up westward also to Mareal and reached to Dabbesheth and reached to the torrent valley that is in front of Jokneam. (Joshua 19:11)**
- **Are considered to be the Kishon.**