

## ~TABOR 1 (178) (Ta'bor)

- An outstanding mountain in the territory of Issachar on its northern boundary.
- It was for Issachar that the fourth lot came out, for the sons of Issachar by their families. ([Joshua 19:17](#))
- And the boundary reached to **Tabor** and Shahazumah and Beth-shemesh, and the terminations of their border proved to be at the Jordan, sixteen cities and their settlements. ([Joshua 19:22](#))
- In [Arabic](#) it is called *Jebel et-Tur*, in [Hebrew](#), *Har Tavor*. It is situated about 20 kilometers (12 miles) West of the southern end of the Sea of Galilee and about 8 kilometers (5 miles) East-Southeast of the city of Nazareth.
- Isolated from other mountains, **Tabor** rises abruptly from the Valley of Jezreel to an altitude of about 562 meters (1,844 feet) above sea level.
- From the West-Northwest it looks like a truncated cone, and from the Southwest like the segment of a sphere. From its summit, a rather flat elliptic area about 0.4 kilometers (0.25 miles) wide from North to South and twice as long from East to West, it affords a magnificent view in all directions.
- The impressive prominence of this mountain probably explains why the psalmist mentions **Tabor** and Mount Hermon together as outstanding examples of the Creators majestic craftsmanship.
- The north and the south, you yourself created them, **Tabor** and Hermon, in your name they cry out joyfully. ([Psalms 89:12](#))
- Yehowah also used the striking massiveness of **Tabor** standing alone in the Valley of Jezreel to illustrate the impressiveness of Nebuchadnezzar upon his entering Egypt with a mighty military force.
- The word that Yehowah spoke to Jeremiah the prophet as regards the coming of Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon to strike down the land of Egypt. ([Jeremiah 46:13](#))

- As I am alive, is the utterance of the King, whose name is Yehowah of armies, like **Tabor** among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea he will come in. (**Jeremiah 46:18**)
- **Tabor** was made particularly famous when Barak, at God's direction, assembled 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun against Sisera and his army, which included 900 chariots with **iron scythes**.
- At the given signal Barak and his forces hurried down the slopes of **Tabor**, and after Yehowah had thrown the Canaanites into confusion, the Israelites won a decisive victory over the fleeing forces of Sisera.
- Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that particular time. (**Judges 4:4**)
- And she was dwelling under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel would go up to her for judgment. (**Judges 4:5**)
- 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**)
- At this Barak said to her; If you will go with me, I also shall certainly go, but if you will not go with me, I shall not go. (**Judges 4:8**)
- To this she said; Without fail I shall go with you. Just the same, the beautifying thing will not become yours on the way that you are going, for it will be into the hand of a woman that Yehowah will sell Sisera. With that Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. (**Judges 4:9**)
- And Barak began to call Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went on up following his steps,

and Deborah went on up with him. (Judges 4:10)

- Incidentally Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the sons of Hobab, whose son-in-law Moses was, and he had his tent pitched near the big tree in Zaanannim, which is at Kedesh. (Judges 4:11)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Some years later **Tabor** witnessed the killing of Gideon's brothers by Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.
- He now said to Zebah and Zalmunna; What sort of men were they whom you killed in **Tabor**? To this they said; As you are, so were they, each one, like the sons of a king in form. (Judges 8:18)
- At that he said; They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As Yehowah lives, if you had preserved them alive, I would not have to kill you. (Judges 8:19)
- By the middle of the **Eighth Century B.C.E**, the unfaithful priestly and regal houses of Israel were, **as a net spread over Tabor**, possibly

using that mountain West of the Jordan as a center for idolatry to snare the Israelites, Mizpah may have been so used East of the Jordan.

- Hear this, O priests, and pay attention, O house of Israel, and you, O house of the king, give ear, for with you people the judgment has to do, because a trap is what you have become to Mizpah and as a net spread over **Tabor**. (**Hosea 5:1**)
- The summit of **Tabor** provided a commanding position and a most suitable location for a fortified city. The ruins show that such a city flourished there before and after the **First Century C.E.**
- This fact gives reason to question the tradition that **Tabor** was the location of Jesus transfiguration, for the accounts say that Jesus and his three companions were in the mountain **by themselves**, to themselves alone.
- Mount Hermon is more likely that **lofty mountain**, and it is near Caesarea Philippi at the headwaters of the Jordan, where Jesus had been shortly before the transfiguration.
- Six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John his brother along and brought them up into a **lofty mountain** by themselves. (**Matthew 17:1**)
- And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone as the sun, and his outer garments became brilliant as the light. (**Matthew 17:2**)
- Jesus and his disciples now left for the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he began questioning his disciples, saying to them; Who are men saying that I am? (**Mark 8:27**)
- Accordingly six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John along, and brought them up into a **lofty mountain** to themselves alone. And he was transfigured before them. (**Mark 9:2**)