

This view of well-tended fields amid the gently rolling countryside is of the Plain of Jezreel, which takes its name from a biblical city of that name west of Beth-Shean (Joshua 19:18; 1 Kings 4:12, 18:45; 2 Kings 10:7). Its Greek name was the Valley of Esdraelon. The plain extended from Mt. Carmel (see Slide 5) and Megiddo (see Slides 26-33) on the west to Mt. Gilboa and the Beth-Shean Valley (see Slides 72-76) on the east. At the northern end of the plain, one encounters the hills of Lower Galilee at the Nazareth fault. Its southern tip is located at biblical Taanach (Joshua 12:21). The River Kishon flows through the plain from east to west, emptying into the Mediterranean north of Haifa and south of Acco (Judges 4:7). The western end of the plain is sometimes called the Plain of Megiddo after the city of that name. Several decisive battles of the biblical period were fought here. The great debacle of the Canaanites under King Jabin of Hazor by Deborah and the northern tribes took place in the west end of the plain (Judges 4-5) (see Slides 6 and 7). The Plain of Jezreel is the setting of the great rout of the Israelites under Saul by the Philistines under Achish (1 Samuel 31:1-7). At Megiddo in the Plain of Jezreel, Pharaoh Necho killed King Josiah of Israel (2 Kings 23:28-30). Finally the New Testament places the last battle--Armageddon--at Megiddo (Revelation 16:16).