

The 12th-century Crusader site of Belvoir was known as Kaukaub el-Hawwa in Arabic, which preserved the Hebrew name of Kokhav ha-Yarden (Star of the Jordan), a Jewish village on the mountain that flourished until the fourth century C.E. It stands about seven miles north-northwest of Beth-Shean. Belvoir withstood Saladin's attack in 1182-1183.

The castle passed into the custody of the Knights Hospitaller, who withstood a protracted siege, but in 1191 Saladin's sappers destroyed the eastern tower, which would have stood to the extreme left in this slide. The besieged Hospitallers sued for peace, then made their way to Tyre. Saladin and his forces destroyed the gates and the church and then abandoned the site. The Knights Hospitallers were founded in the 12th century to care for Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. Eventually their solicitude branched out from nursing pilgrims in hospitals to active defense of the pilgrim routes and to participation in battle.

Belvoir was excavated in 1966 and 1967 on behalf of Israel's National Parks Authority under the direction of Meir Ben-Dov.