

Mount Tabor

Mount Tabor sets on the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley. It is 11 miles from the west shore of the Sea of Galilee. The road called Via Maris passed by Mount Tabor through the Jezreel Valley going north into Damascus. This was one of the mountain peaks that beacons were lit to inform the northern cities of the Jewish holy days.



When looking to the east from the ridge that Nazareth sets on Mt. Tabor appears very large. It reaches a height of 1,850 feet. This is where Deborah and Barak camped before they defeated Sisera's army. Some mistakenly teach that Jesus' transfiguration occurred here on Mount Tabor, but it seems Scripture places this event on Mount Hermon near Caesarea Philippi.

Today Highway 65 runs past Mount Tabor and a visitor can drive their own vehicle to the top by Shibli's access road. In the Byzantine period a pilgrim would have to climb to the top using 4,340 stairs. Today a pilgrim visiting on foot can use the Israel National Trail to reach the top of Mount Tabor.

In the Bible: **Judges 19:12,22,34**, Mount Tabor is on the boundary of Zebulun, Isachar and Naphtali; **1 Chr.6:77**, Mount Tabor is a city for the Levites; **Judges4:6,12-16**, Deborah and Barak organized their army on Mount Tabor to face Jabin, king of Hazor led by General Sisera; **Jud.8:18-21**, Gideon killed the leaders of the Midianites because they had killed Gideon's brothers on Mount Tabor; **Psalms 89:12**, Mount Tabor used to express God's great creation; **Jer.46:18**, Jeremiah compares Nebuchadnezzar's greatness to the great height of Mount Tabor.



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