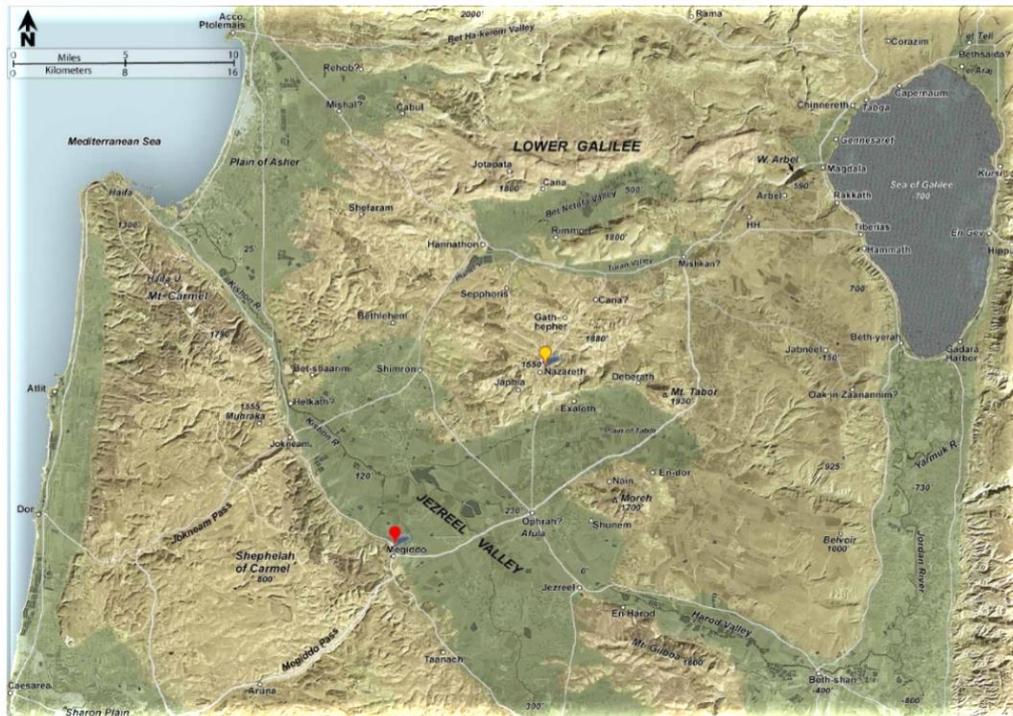




# Megiddo Fact Sheet

**Location:** In Megiddo Pass (also known as Wadi Ara), inside Jezreel valley



*Relief map of Jezreel Valley*

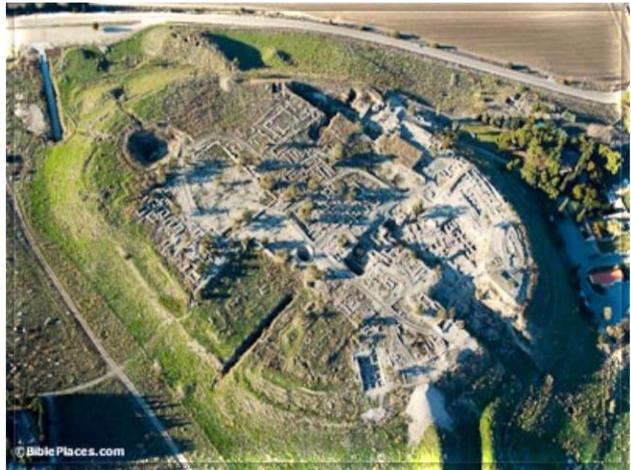
**Meaning of Name:** “His Precious Fruit”; “Declaring a Message”

**Bible References:** 13x

- *Josh 12:21* – King of Megiddo
- *Josh 17:11, Jdg 1:27* – Town in Manasseh territory
- *Jdg 5:19* – Deborah’s song mentions waters of Megiddo
- *1 Ki 4:12* – Solomon’s officers
- *1 Ki 9:15* – Built by Solomon
- *2 Ki 9:27* – Ahaziah died in Megiddo
- *2 Ki 23:29-30* – King Josiah died in Megiddo
- *1 Chr 7:29* – Inhabited by children of Joseph
- *2 Chr 35:22* – King Josiah fought in valley
- *Zech 12:11* – Mourning assoc. with Armageddon
- *Rev 16:16* – Battle of Armageddon



**Past:** Evidence of Megiddo’s existence can be traced back to approximately 3500 BC. It of great strategic value, both militarily and commercially. Egypt’s Pharaoh Thutmose III once said “*Capturing Megiddo is as good as capturing 1,000 cities*”. His conquest of Megiddo in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century is regarded as the earliest recorded battle in history. It was occupied by Canaanites and Egyptians before falling to Joshua and the Israelites around 1450 BC. It was generally controlled by the Israelites until the Assyrians, under Tilgathpileser, took the city around 732 BC. During World War I, Megiddo was the site of several important battles to liberate Palestine from the Ottomans, including the Battle of Megiddo in September of 1918. It was so significant in fact that Field Marshal Edmund Allenby included the name of Megiddo in his family’s hereditary title, and his family is a major supporter of the archaeological work there.



*Aerial view, ancient ruins of Tel Megiddo*

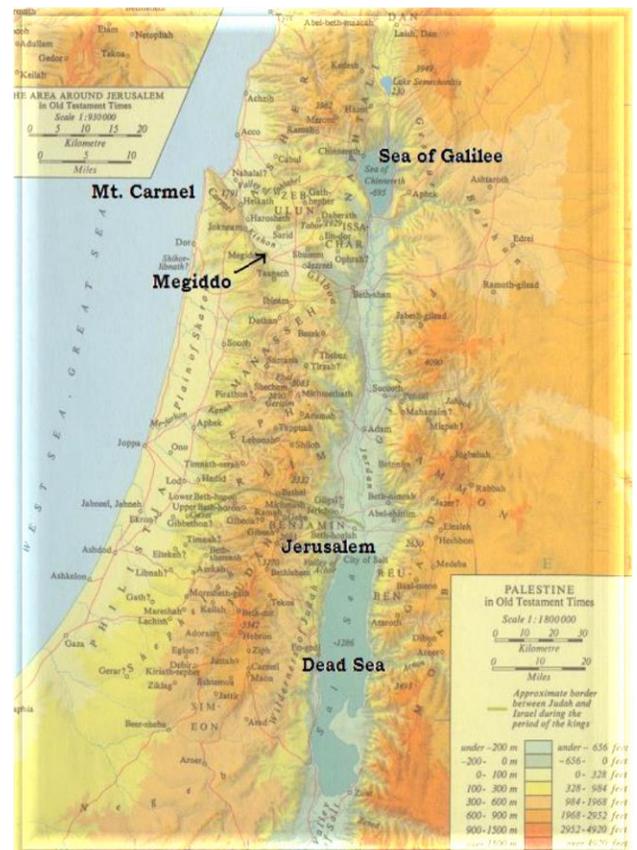
**Present:** Today, the ancient *tel* is a national park, rising approximately 180 ft about the surrounding area. There are regular archaeological expeditions in Megiddo as well. In 2005, a prayer wall was discovered which included a mosaic inscription that said “God Jesus Christ”; archaeologists estimate that this find dates back to the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century. Underneath the *tel* is a tunnel supposedly commissioned by King Ahab to connect it with a spring 210 ft away. Workers dug from both sides, and meeting in the middle with only minor corrections. Just behind the national park is kibbutz Megiddo, which was founded in 1949 by Holocaust survivors from Poland and Germany, and has a population just short of 1,000 people.



**Future:** The Battle of Armageddon will undoubtedly take place in this area, according to the Book of Revelation. It has historically been a place where kings were gathered for battle; both secular and scriptural history attest to this fact. This reputation will continue as the kings of the world, led by the Antichrist, will confront the Lord Jesus Christ during this “great and notable Day of the Lord”. For more information, please refer to the Jezreel Valley Fact Sheet.

*Consider This:*

- God will certainly be “declaring a message” at the Battle of Armageddon!
- Note the Hebrew name “his precious fruit” and the association with Armageddon (*Joel 3:12-14, Isa 63:1-4*).
- Megiddo has a strong association with the number 13 (13 references in Scripture; 26 levels discovered denoting the number of times it has been razed and rebuilt).
- Megiddo was chosen as the site of the first-ever visit of a pope to Israel when in 1964, Pope Paul VI met with Israeli President Zalman Shazar and Prime Minister Levi Eschkol.
- Megiddo is the site of the first reliably-reported major battle in history, and will be the last major battle in history (unless you consider *Rev 20:8-9* a major battle; I can assure you God doesn't!)



*Megiddo in relation to major points of interest in Israel*