**Holy Land Study - Galilee Region**

**[Jazreel Valley](HolyLand%20Study%20Q&A.docx" \l "JazreelValley)**

**The Holy Land is sectioned into four parallel zones. From the west to the east, they are coastal plain, the central mountain, the Jordan Valley, and the Transjordan. Because of the distribution of mountains and valleys, the main lines of communication run in a north-south direction with the exception in Galilee where a series of five east-west valleys break through the central Galilean mountain range. This gives a path to bring in moisture from Mediterranean Sea.**

**Jezreel Valley marks the southern limit of Lower Galilee. It is referred as “The Rich Valley” or “fertile Valley” in the book of Isaiah. The rich alluvial soil produces fine crops of wheat and barley and is the bread basket of the Holy Land.**

**Kishon River cut through the Jezreel Valley. During the rainy season, Kishon River can be 4-8 feet deep and 10-40 feet wide. It reminds us of the War of Deborah, when the “torrent Kishon swept them away…” (Judg. 5:21).**

**Jesus must have passed through the Jezreel Valley many times as his family traveled between Nazareth and Jerusalem, and as he traveled from city to city in His ministry.**

**Many events happened in this area.**

* **Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites in the Jezreel Valley (Judg. 4-15)**
* **Gideon and his small army delivered Israel from the Midianites. (Judg. 6)**
* **The Philistines gathered in the Jezreel Valley before the battle with King Saul, in which he and his son Jonathan were killed (1 Sam. 31).**
* **Elijah ran through the Jezreel Valley from Mount Carmel to the city of Jezreel. (1 Kg. 18:42,46)**
* **King Ahab had his winter palace in the Jezreel Valley, near the vineyard of “Naboth the Jezreelite.” (1 Kgs. 21:1-14)**
* **Elisha often stayed at Shunem where he raised the son of a wealthy woman to life. (2 Kgs. 4:8-37)**
* **King Josiah of Judah was killed at Megiddo in a battle with the Egyptian army (2 Kgs. 23:29-30;Chron 35:20-24).**