

My Valley



Meet Afula, the capital city of the Biblical Jezreel Valley

Here I was born, here my children and my grandchildren were born, and here I made my home, Beit Torah-Ohr. And here, I invite you - my friends who love the God of Israel and His People - to become acquainted with the Land of the Lord and His Word in a different way...one both old and new.

The city of Afula is in the center of the Jezreel Valley, and is bordered on the north by the mountains of **Nazareth** and **Mount Tabor**, on the east and south by **Mount Gilboa** and the mountains of **Samaria** respectively, and on the west by **Mount Carmel** – each place rich with Scriptural events.



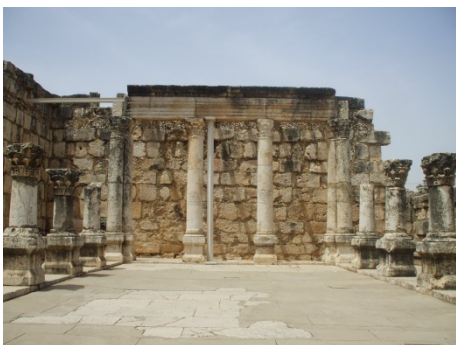
The trade routes through these mountains have been significant in world history for thousands of years, emphasizing Israel's role as a bridge linking **Africa, Asia** and **Europe**. Ancient caravans bearing merchandise and the innovations of the far-East, as well as the armies of antiquity passed this way.

Beit Torah-Ohr, is located next to the old train station, **Rakevet HaEmek** (the "Train of the Valley"), which was built during the Ottoman Empire. In 1905, the first train left from **Haifa** via **Afula** to **Daraa** (a Syrian town) - linking **Damascus** to **Al-Madina** of **Hejaz** (which is now a part of modern-day **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**).



When thinking about my city, a verse in Psalms 125:2 comes to mind:
"The Mountains surround Jerusalem, and the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forever."

This verse has special meaning for me because, when I look at the mountains surrounding my town, I mentally visualize the personalities and events. I can almost "see" my people on one side, and the enemies—the Canaanites, Philistines, Amalekites and Midianites - on the other. I "feel" the presence of Saul and Jonathan, Barak and Deborah, Gideon, Solomon, Elijah and Yeshua; and in contrast, Sisera, Ahab and Jezebel, and other false prophets. I "hear" the wailing at the destruction of Saul's kingdom; the blasts of 301 shofars wielded by Gideon and his warriors; the victorious song of Deborah and Barak; the prayers of Elijah, who defeated 400 false prophets on Mount Carmel; and the sound of the steps of Yeshua.



Modern day Jezreel Valley is a thriving agricultural center. The valley is covered with fields, orchards, groves, and vineyards with luscious produce from the soil of the Holy Land. Afula is also world-renowned for its sunflower seeds and nuts. The kibbutzim also specialize in animal husbandry, and sport multiple organic fish ponds.



Mount Carmel, Megiddo (Armageddon), Taanach, Mount Gilboa, Giv'at HaMore, Beit She'an, Mount Tabor, Tiberius and Nazareth are all within a few minutes from **Beit Torah Ohr**. We are also within comfortable distance from Haifa, Safed, the Golan Heights, and approximately one and a half hours from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, making it an ideal base for travel and touring.