

The Yarmuk (or Jarmuk in English), in the lower right of this slide, is the largest and swiftest tributary of the Jordan River. It enters the Jordan about four miles south of the Sea of Galilee. The Yarmuk forms the natural boundary between Bashan to the north, of which Golan is a part, and Gilead to the south. Today the southern end of the Yarmuk marks the place where the borders of Syria, Israel and Jordan meet. One source of the Yarmuk is the springs of Bashan in upper Transjordan. Bashan was famous in the Bible for its lush oak forests (Isaiah 2:13; Ezekiel 27:6) and rich pastures (Deuteronomy 32:14; Jeremiah 50:19). A second source of the Yarmuk is rivulets in the Hauran, the northeastern part of Transjordan. The Hauran stands on the border of the country described by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 47:15-18). The Yarmuk is not mentioned in the Bible, but figures often in the Talmud, the definitive collection of Jewish law and teachings (the Talmud was compiled in two versions; the Palestinian Talmud was completed in the mid-fifth century C.E., and the Babylonian Talmud was completed in the mid-sixth century C.E.).