

# Judea and Samaria *It's Time to Get Acquainted*



**Maaleh Levona:**  
A steep rise between Shechem and Beit El. Here Judah Maccabee defeated Apollonius, the Samaria commander.

**Mount Baal Hatzor:**  
A mountain east of Beit El. This was where Judah Maccabee was defeated for the second time; his force was routed and he fell in battle.

**Givon Valley:**  
A valley north of Jerusalem (between the Jerusalem Hills and Beit El Hills). This is where Judah Maccabee defeated Nicanor.

**The Temple Mount:**  
Site of the Holy Temple. Judah Maccabee purified the defiled Temple and restored the service there. Chanuka commemorates this event.

**Beit Zacharia:**  
(Today Hirbet Zakaria, near the town of Elazar). This is where Judah Maccabee suffered his first defeat and his brother Elazar fell battling the elephants.

**Beit Tzur:**  
A Jewish town north of Hebron (today Karnei Tzur). From here, the defeated army of Lysias retreated back to Syria.

**Ayalon Valley:**  
A valley that stretches to the west of the Jerusalem Hills. Here Judah Maccabee defeated Gorgias's large army.

**Beit El Hills (Gofna Hills):**  
A divided ridge of mountains north of Jerusalem, where the Hashmonaim sought refuge when they fled Modi'in. This was Judah Maccabee's primary command center.

**Beit Horon Ascent:**  
A steep slope between Modi'in and Jerusalem. Here Judah Maccabee defeated Seron.

**Modi'in:**  
The hometown of Mattityahu and his sons, where the rebellion against the Greeks began.

**Yavneh:**  
A mixed (Jewish-Greek) city near Ashdod. Here the sons of Shimon Maccabee - Yochanan and Yehuda - defeated the Seleucid army for the last time. The Kingdom of Judea is liberated!

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## Sites of the Maccabees 166-161 BCE