



This place in Jewish History

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As we consider the 1,200 dunams (120 hectares) of new agricultural land that KKL-JNF is now preparing in collaboration with the Eshkol Regional Council, it's meaningful to reflect on what happened here in Jewish History.

The main river in this region is **Nahal Besor**.

Three thousand years ago, King David is sitting in Ziklag near Kiryat Gat. He is informed that the Amalekites had raided his camp and taken many women and children captive. Ziklag is in flames and even David's two wives Avigayil and Achinoam have been taken away. David takes 600 men toward the Besor River. He divides his camp into two. 400 are committed to continue pursuit. 200 are tired and remain by the river to guard the supplies.

They find a weary Egyptian in the field who hasn't eaten in three days. David's men give him food and water. The man informs them that he's a servant to an Amalekite and that he was present during the raid on Ziklag. David asked him if he could lead him and his men to the Amalekites. After swearing to the lad that no harm will come to him, David is taken to the camp.

David arrives to find them eating and feasting. He attacks them before dawn and the fighting continues until the evening of the next day. The entire Amalekite camp is killed, except for 400 of them who escaped. David recovers all that the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Upon returning to **Nahal Besor**, he insists on dividing the spoils equally among his 600 soldiers.

With best wishes for a Chag Sameach,
Rabbi Gideon Shloush