

## חל יזרעאל – חקלת שדה נבות היזרעאלי

אבנר רמו

In the Book of Kings we read: **ואת-איזבל יאכלו הכלבים בחלק יזרעאל** - “And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel” (2 Ki 9:10; see also: 2Ki 9:36, 37).

Yet we also read in this Book:

**וגם-לאיזבל-דבר יהוה לאמר: הכלבים יאכלו את-איזבל בחל יזרעאל.**  
“And of Jezebel also spoke *YHWH*, saying: The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the moat of Jezreel” (1 Ki 21:23).

The Greeks translated the unusual word: **בחל** (*bekhel*) as: “fortification” and not as: “moat.” However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here **בחל** (*bekhel*) is a letter-deletion error of **בחלק** (*bekhekeq*) - “in the portion.”

In the Book of Kings we also read: **ויצאו לקראת יהוא, וימצאו בחלקת נבות היזרעאלי** - “and they went out to meet Jehu, and found him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite” (2 Ki 9:21; see also: 2 Ki 9:25).

This reading suggests that **בחלק יזרעאל** is a letter and word deletion of:  
**בחלקת נבות היזרעאלי** - “in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

The post-biblical Hebrew word: **חקלאות** means: “agriculture” or “cultivation of land.” Its source is the Aramaic word: **חקל** (*khaqal*), which suggests that **חלקת נבות היזרעאלי** could be an order-type error of **חקלת נבות היזרעאלי** or of: **חקלת שדה נבות היזרעאלי** “the cultivated field of Naboth the Jezreelite.”



כיבוש קש בשדות נהלל שנת 1936, צילום: באדיבות מועצה אזורית עמק יזרעאל



The plain of Jezreel. 2017

If this assumption is correct then the expression: **חלקת שדה** (2 Sam 23:11; 2 Ki 9:25; Ruth 2:3; 4:3; 2 Ch 11:13) should be replaced by **חקלת שדה** - “cultivated field.”