

Mizar

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the headwaters of the Jordan River. Three hillocks in that area are especially suited since they share similar consonants preserving the biblical toponym: Za'ōra (2165.2915), Khirbet el-Mezra'a (2167.2921), Khirbet el-Mezāra (2155.2961).

Sometimes Mizar is identified with the sanctuary at Dan, the desired destination of the psalmist, since the ancient town of Dan is situated on a small knoll near Mount Hermon and the main source of the Jordan. However, the theological topography could stress the fact that the psalmist is in the extreme north and far away from the holy mountain. Though having similar consonants, Mizar does not allude to Egypt (*msrym*) as suggested recently. Neither LXX nor Vg. consider Mizar a real toponym but translate it with an adjective. Christian pilgrims seem to have identified Hermonim and Mizar as Mount Tabor (1870.2324) and Nebi Daḥi (1830.2248), or place Mizar in the Jordan Valley (Jerome, *Epist.* 108.13; Theodosius, *De Situ terrae sanctae* 20; Antonini Placentini *Itinerarium* 9), contrary to early church fathers like Diodore of Tarsus who considers "small" as a gloss or nickname (*Comm. Ps. ad loc.*). Similarly, Theodore of Mopsuestia interprets "small mountain" as a metaphor for longing since small things are especially desirable (*Comm. Ps. ad loc.*). According to Cassiodorus, it should be a metaphor that God is sought in modest lowliness (*Expl. Ps. ad loc.*). Rashi identifies Mizar as Mount Sinai and links it to the golden calf episode (*Comm. Ps. ad loc.*).

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Mizar (MT *miš'ār*, "littleness"; LXX ὄρος μικρός) is a mountain in the area of the Hermon ridge and the Jordan River according to Ps 42:6 [MT 42:7] which is difficult to identify with particular peaks since the syntax is ambiguous. Mizar might refer either to the destination or the position of the psalmist. Moreover, the Hebrew word for "littleness" might be simply a contrast to the height of another mountain, maybe the Zion, the holy mountain of God with the sanctuary at Jerusalem, the destination of the psalmist according to neighboring Ps 43:3. In that respect, Mount Hermon is only a hillock compared to Zion and could be identified with Mount Mizar as does *MidTeh* 1:443. Therefore, the preposition *min* preceding *har miš'ār* could be deleted due to dittography. Furthermore, even Zion could be the "little hill" since the psalmist might consider himself to be far away from Mount Mizar with *min* highlighting the distance. The topographic sequence (land of Jordan, Hermon ridges, Mizar) moves strikingly from a general to a specific localization, so that Mizar might refer to a little hill near