



The Yarmouk River valley

The Battle of Yarmouk: An Introduction

The Byzantines largely ignored the Muslims, until Umar conquered the great city of Damascus in 635. It was then that the emperor, Heraclius, realized this new foe must be crushed.

He raised a huge army from across his empire to drive the Muslims back into Arabia. The Muslims retreated and regrouped on the edge of the desert (in modern-day Jordan) and then they met the Byzantine forces on the plains overlooking the Yarmouk River valley, northeast of Jerusalem.

The Battle of Yarmouk was one of the great turning points in history. The Muslim army defeated a much larger, technologically superior force through strategy and determination. Umar had appointed a great general to lead his troops against the Byzantine army—Abu Ubayda, who was assisted by another **savvy** general, Khalid.

This is a fictionalized story of General Vahan, the leader of the Byzantine troops, and his experience through the long Battle of Yarmouk.