

ALL THE PLACES OF THE BIBLE

This article identifies all of the places named in the Bible, excluding the deuterocanonical books. The place names are arranged alphabetically as they appear in the King James Version, with variant spellings enclosed in brackets []. The suggested meaning of the names is then given in parentheses (). Under each entry, various places bearing this name are differentiated by boldface brackets, like this [1] ; [2]; and so on. Then follows a description of each place, with several Bible references to it.

The meanings of the names are not infallibly accurate; they are simply interesting possibilities. These place names are ancient, many are pre-Israelite, and their history is obscure and uncertain.

Often a Hebrew name refers to both a place and a person. In such cases, you will find the same name in "All the People of the Bible."

Different names were used to refer to certain sites in different periods of history (e.g., Accho and Ptolemais). We have grouped these names under the most familiar biblical name, cross-referencing the other names to it. Modern place names are given under most of the biblical names.

A

Abana ("stony"), a river that runs through Damascus, purported to have healing qualities (2 Kings 5: 12). A more accurate rendering of the name would be Amana.

Abarim ("mountain beyond"), a large mountain range in Moab near Heshbon, which includes Mount Nebo (Num. 27: 12; 33:47-48; Deut. 32:49).

Abdon ("servile:"), a city belonging to the tribe of Asher, located at the present site of Khirbet Abdeh (Josh. 21:30; 1 Chron. 6:71). It is once called Hebron; *see* Hebron [2J]. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Abel ("meadow," "brook," "stream"), a prefix attached to several towns. [1] In 2 Sam. 20:14-18, a city specifically related to Abelbeth-maacah is mentioned. Some suppose that Abel and beth-maacah were towns so close together that they were thought of as being one. However, others believe only one town is referred to in this passage. [2] The KJV reading in 1 Sam. 6: 18, "the great stone of Abel," is not very likely. It is a combination of the Hebrew, "the great meadow

[abel]," and the Septuagint, "the great stone." A city is not referred to here. *See* Abel-beth-maacah. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Abel-beth-maacah ("meadow [brook] near Beth-maacah"), a town of the tribe of Naphtali, located in northern Palestine (2 Sam.

20:14-15). *See also* Abel [1], Abel-maim.

Abel-mann ("meadow [brook] of waters"), probably another name for Abel-beth-maacah (2 Chron. 16:4).

Abel-meholah ("meadow [brook] of dancing"), the birthplace of Elisha, located on the western side of the Jordan Valley (Judg. 7:22; 1 Kings 4: 12).

Abel-mizraim, *See* Atad.

Abel-shittim (" meadow [brook] of Acacias"), largest campsite of the wandering Israelites, located on the plains of Moab (Num. 33:49).

Abez ("lofty"), a town in northern Palestine apportioned to the tribe of Issachar (Josh.19:20).

Abilene (" stream," "brook"), a Syrian tetrarchy located 29 to 32 km. (18 to 20 mi.) northwest of Damascus (Luke 3: 1).

Accad [Akkad] ("fortress"), a city built by Nimrod on the Plain of Shinar (Sumer), north of Babylonia (Gen. 10:10).

Accho [Ptolemais] ("hot sand"), a town on the coast of Palestine about 40 km. (25 mi.) south of Tyre, apportioned to the tribe of

Asher (Judg. 1:31); also called Ptolemais ("hot sand") in Acts 21:7.

Aceldama [Potter's Field] ("field of blood"), a field purchased by the priests of Jerusalem with the 30 pieces of silver that bought the betrayal of Jesus (Acts 1: 19); also called Potter's Field (Matt. 27:7).

Achaia ("trouble"), an ancient district of, the Peloponnesus in Greece ruled by the Romans (Acts 18: 12; Rom. 15:26).

Achmetha [Ecbatana] ("a place of horses"), a provincial city of the Medes that was the summer residence of Persian kings (Ezra 6:2); also called Ecbatana. The city stood near present-day Hamadan.

Achor ("trouble"), a valley south of Jericho, in which Achan was stoned (Josh. 7:24); and which formed the northern boundary of Judah (Josh. 15:7).

Achshaph ("sorcery"), a city of Canaan captured by Joshua (Josh. 12:20), and a landmark on the boundary of the land apportioned to the tribe of Asher (Josh. 19:25).

Achzib [Chezib] ("false"). [1] A Canaanite city in the lowlands of Judah, captured by Joshua (Gen. 38:5; Josh. 15:44). [2] A seashore town on the northern side of Galilee near the Lebanon border (Josh. 19:29; Judg. 1:31).

Adadah ("holiday"), a town in the southern district of Judah (Josh. 15:22).

Adam ("red; of the earth"), a city on the east bank of the Jordan River that was given to the tribe of Reuben (Josh. 3: 16). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Adamah ("earth"), a fortified city in northern Palestine apportioned to the tribe of Naphtali (Josh. 19:36); its exact location is not known.

Adami [**Adami-Nekeb**] ("fortified"), a border town assigned to the tribe of Naphtali (Josh. 19:33); perhaps located on the site of modern Khirbet ed-Damiyeh, 8 km. (5 mi.) southwest of Tiberias.

Some consider this to be the same as Nekeb and hence join the words to form one: Adami-Nekeb. Others deny this—either view is possible. Adami also might be identical with Adamah (q.v.).

Adar [**Hazar-Addar**] ("height"), a fortress town located on the southwestern border of Judah between Kadesh-barnea and Karka (Josh. 15:3). This place is called Hazar-Addar in Numbers 34:4. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Addan [**Addon**] ("stony"), a place in Babylon that served as a staging area for exiles returning to Israel (Ezra 2:59; Neh. 7:61).

Adithaim ("double crossing"), a town in the lowlands of Judah (Josh. 15:36).

Admah ("redness"), one of the Cities of the Plain that God destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:25-29); its location may now be submerged by the southern end of the Dead Sea.

Adoraim ("two mounds"), a city in Judah built by Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:9).

Adramyttium ("from Adramys, brother of Craesus"), a port city of Mysia in the northwestern part of the Roman province of Asia (Acts 27:2; cf. 16:7).

Adria ("from [the city] Adria of Italy"), originally a name referring to the sea east of Italy. In later times, the term included the Mediterranean between Greece and Sicily (Acts 27:27).

Adullam ("refuge"), a town of Judah near Succoth. David made the headquarters of his rebellion against Saul in a cave near this town (Josh. 12:7-15; 1 Sam. 22; 2 Sam. 23:13).

Adummim ("bloody things"), a pass from the Jordan Valley to the hill country of Judah. It is the shortest route from Jericho to Jerusalem, and may have been the setting for Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan (Josh. 15:7; cf. Luke 10:30-37).

Aenon ("fountains"), a place noted for its abundant supply of water, where John baptized his converts. Most likely this site was at the head of the Valley of Shechern (John 3:23).

Ahava ("water"), a site about 14km. (9 mi.) north of Babylon; a staging area for Jews preparing to return to Palestine (Ezra 8:15,31).

Ahlab ("fertile"), a town assigned to Asher, but never captured from the Canaanites (Judg. 1:31); its proba-



Valley of Aijalon. Bordering the Plain of Sharon between the city of Jericho and the Mediterranean Sea, the valley of Aijalon (or Ajalon) was the site of Joshua's famous battle with the Amorites (Josh. 10:12-14). The biblical town of Aijalon, located nearby, should not be confused with a city by the same name in modern Jordan.

ble location is about 6 km. (4 mi.) northeast of Tyre.

Ai [**Aiath; Aija**] ("heap of ruins"). [1] One of the strongest Canaanite cities, located east of Bethel (Josh. 7:2; Neh. 11:31). In Isaiah 10:28 the Hebrew feminine form of the name (Aiath) occurs. [2] A city of the Ammonites, probably located near Heshbon (Jer. 49:3).

Aijalon [**Ajalon**] ("place of harts"). [1] A town located 22.5 km. (14 mi.) northwest of Jerusalem, designated as a Levitical city (Josh. 19:42; 21:24; 2 Chron. 28:18). [2] A site belonging to the tribe of Zebulun west of the Sea of Galilee, where the judge Elon was buried (Judg. 12:12). Its exact location is unknown.

Ain ("eye"). [1] A town of Judah near Rimmon, assigned to the Levites serving the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 15:32; 19:7; 21:16; 1 Chron. 4:32). [2] A site on the boundary line of the Promised Land, west of Riblah (Num. 34:11). Its exact location is unknown.

Ajalon. *See* Ajalon.

Akrabbim. *See* Maaleh-acrabbim.

Alammelech ("king's oak"), a village assigned to the tribe of Asher (Josh. 19:26).

Alemeth [**Almon**] ("covering"), a city given to the priests of the tribe of Benjamin

(1 Chron. 6:60; Josh. 21: 18).

Alexandria ("city of Alexander the Great"), a city on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt, which served as Egypt's capital city for many years (Acts 27:6; 28:11-13).

Almon. *See* Alemeth.

Ahnon-diblathaim ("hiding place of two fig sacks"), a site between the Arnon River and Shittim where the Israelites camped during their wandering in the wilderness (Num. 33:46).

Aloth (no known translation), a district from which King Solomon drew provisions (1 Kings 4: 16).

Alush ("crowd"), a site where the Israelites camped on their journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai (Num. 33: 14).

Amad ("enduring"), a frontier town of the tribe of Asher (Josh. 19:26).

Amam ("gathering place"), a village located on the Wadi-es-Sini in southern Judah (Josh. 15:26).

Amana ("forth"), a range of mountains in Lebanon, probably south of the Amana [Abana] River (Song of Sol. 4:8).

Ammah ("head"), a hill in the wilderness of the Jordan Valley near Gibeon; Joab and Abner fought here (2 Sam. 2:24).

Amphipolis ("surrounded city"), the chief city of Macedonia, located in the region of Thrace (Acts 17: 1).

Anab ("grape"), a town in the mountains of Judah (Josh. 11:21; 15:50).

Anaharath ("gorge"), a frontier town of the tribe of Issachar (Josh. 19: 19).

Anathoth ("answer"), a town of the tribe of Benjamin, located about 4 km. (2.5 mi.) northeast of Jerusalem (Josh. 21: 18; Ezra 2:23); the birthplace of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 1: 1; 11:21). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Anem ("two fountains"), a city of the tribe of Issachar, assigned to the Levites (1 Chron. 6:73). It is identical with En-gannim [2].

Aner ("boy"), a city of the tribe of Manasseh located west of the Jordan; it was assigned to the Levites (1 Chron. 6:70). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Anim ("fountains"), a town in the hills of Judah (Josh. 15:50).

Antioch ("speedy as a chariot"). [1] A Syrian city on the south side of the Orontes River, where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians (Acts 11: 19-26). [2] A city of Phrygia near the border of Pisidia, visited by Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey (Acts 13:14).

Antipatris ("for his father"), a city built on the Plain of Sharon by Herod the Great (Acts 23:31).

Aphek [Aphik] ("strength"). [1] A city north of Sidon (Josh. 13:4). [2] A town assigned to the tribe of Asher but never captured

from the Canaanites; located just southeast of Accho (Josh. 19:30; Judg. 1:31). [3] A town on the Plain of Sharon northeast of Joppa, whose king was killed by Joshua (Josh. 12: 18). [4] A town between Shunem and Jezreel, whose soldiers fought in the war between Saul and the Philistines (1 Sam. 28:4; 29:1, 11; 31:1). This may have been the town where BenHadad fought Ahab (1 Kings 20:26-30), and where "Jehoash" of Israel would defeat the Syrians (2 Kings 13: 14-19). However, these two passages may refer to Aphek in Golan, about 5 km. (3 mi.) east of the Sea of Galilee.

Apollonia ("city of Apollo"), a Macedonian town visited by Paul on his way to Thessalonica (Acts 17:1).

Appii Forum ("marketplace of Appius"), a town in Italy about 64 km. (40 mi.) from Rome. Roman Christians met Paul here when he was brought to plead his case before Caesar (Acts 28: 15).

Ar ("city"), the chief city of Moab, located on the northern boundary of Moabite territory (Num. 21:15; Isa. 15:1).

Arab ("ambush"), a town in the hills of Judah east of Dumah (Josh. 15:52).

Arabia ("desert"), a large peninsula bounded on the east by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, on the west by the Red Sea, and on the south by the Indian Ocean. It was the home of many nomadic tribes, and was sometimes called the "East Country" (2 Chron. 21: 16; Isa. 13:20).

Arad ("wild ass"), a Canaanite city in the wilderness of Judea (Josh. 12: 14). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."



Anathoth. From the mound that covers the site of ancient Anathoth, one can see the modern village of Anata. Anathoth was a city of the tribe of Benjamin in that was assigned to the Levites (Josh. 21:18). It was the home of the high priest Abiathar (1 Kings 2:26), the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 1:1), and David's famed warrior, Jehu (1 Chron. 12:3). Today the site is known as Ras el-Harrubeh; it is located about 5 km. (3 mi.) north of Jerusalem.

Aram ("high"), the plain extending eastward from the Lebanon Mountains beyond the Euphrates River, occupied by the Aramaeans, mistakenly termed "Syrians" by the KJV (Num. 23:7; 1 Kings 20: 1). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Ararat ("high land"), a mountainous, hilly land in western Asia (Jer. 51:27) later known as Armenia (Isa. 37:38; 2 Kings 19:37). Noah's ark rested on mountains in this area (Gen. 8:4).

Aravah ("steppe"), the depression of land holding the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea (Josh. 18: 18). The "valley" of Joshua 11:2 probably refers to the Aravah.

Areopagus [Mars Hill] ("hill of Ares [Mars]"), a hill west of the acropolis in Athens, where Paul addressed several Greek philosophers; also known as Mars Hill (Acts 17: 19-34).

Argob ("region of clods"), a district of Bashan that was taken by King Solomon (Deut. 3:4; Josh. 13:30; 1 Kings 4: 13). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Arimathea ("heights"), the home of a businessman named Joseph, who gained permission to bury the body of Jesus (Matt. 27:57; Luke 23:51). Its exact location is not known, but is generally believed to have been about 16 km. (10 mi.) northeast of Lydda on the western edge of the hill country of Ephraim. *See also* Ramah.

Armageddon (Hebrew, *Har Megiddo*—"hill of Megiddo"), the site of the final battle between Christ and Satan (Rev. 16:16). *See also* Megiddo.

Armenia. *See* Ararat.

Arnon ("rushing water"), a river that pours into the Dead Sea (Num. 21:13; Josh. 13:16).

Aroer ("naked"). [1] A town on the northern bank of the Arnon River (Deut. 2:36; Josh. 12:2). [2] A city of Gilead east of Rabbath-Ammon (Josh. 13:25). [3] A village of Judah about 19 km. (12 mi.) southeast of Beersheba (1 Sam. 30:28).

Arpad [Arphad] ("strong"), a Syrian city 20 km. (13 mi.) north of Aleppo (Isa. 36: 19; Jer. 42:23).

Aruboth ("windows"), a district belonging to King Solomon (1 Kings 4: 10).

Arumah ("heights"), a town near Shechem once occupied by Abimelech (Judg. 9:41).

Arvad ("wandering"), the northernmost Phoenician city, noted for its mariners (Ezek. 27:8). The modern city of Ruwad is located on this site.

Arzob. *See* Bashar.

Ashan ("smoke"), a lowland town assigned to the tribe of Judah, then to Simeon (Josh. 15:42; 19:7; 1 Chron. 4:32); probably located just northwest of Beersheba. It is possibly identical with Chor-ashan (q. v.)

Ashbea ("idolatry"), a place where linen workers lived (1 Chron. 4:21); its exact location is unknown.

Ashdod [Azotus] ("stronghold"), one of the five chief Canaanite cities; the seat of the worship of the fish



Arnon River. Sometimes described as the "brook" Arnon, the mighty Arnon River carves a deep gorge that bisects the highlands east of the Dead Sea. For this reason, the Arnon is nearly always mentioned in the Bible as a frontier—first as the southern frontier of the Amorites, and later as a border of Reuben (Num. 21:13).

god Dagon; located halfway between present-day Jaffa and Gaza (Josh. 11:22; 1 Sam. 5:1; Acts 8:40).

Ashkelon [Askelon] ("wandering"), one of the five chief Canaanite cities, the seat of the worship of the goddess Derceto; located about 19 km. (12 mi.) north of the present-day city of Gaza (Josh. 13:3; Jer. 47:5).

Ashnah ("hard, firm"). [1] A village in the lowlands of Judah near Zorah (Josh. 15:33). [2] Another village of Judah, farther south (Josh. 15:43).

Ashtaroth-karnaim [Astaroth; Ashtaroth] ("[the goddess] Ashtaroth of the two horns"), a town of Bashan, the seat of the worship of the goddess Ashtaroth (Gen. 14:5; Deut. 1:4; Josh. 9:10).

Asia ("eastern"), the term used by the Bible to refer to Asia Minor (1 Cor. 16:19; Acts 2:9).

Askelon. *See* Ashkelon.

Assos ("approaching"), a seaport of Mysia, near Troas (Acts 20: 13).

Assyria ("country of Assur"), a Semitic nation on the Tigris River, whose capital was Nineveh (Gen. 2: 14; 2 Kings 15:10, 20).

Atad ("a thorn"), the campsite near Hebron used by Joseph and his brothers as they prepared to take Jacob's body back to Canaan (Gen. 50:11). The new name given the site was a pun: The Canaanites saw the mourning [Hebrew, *ēbhel*] of the Egyptians and called the place *Abel* [Hebrew, *ābhel*]—"meadow"; mizraim—"of the Egyptians."

Ataroth ("crowns"). [1] A town east of the Jordan River rebuilt by the tribe of Gad (Num. 32:3,34). [2] A town on the edge of the Jordan Valley at the border of Ephraim (Josh. 16:7). [3] The house of Joab mentioned in the genealogy of Judah (1 Chron. 2:54). The site is unknown. Some take the "House of Joab" to be part of the town's title; in Hebrew this would be *Atroth-bethjoab*.

Ataroth-addar [Ataroth-adar] ("crown of Addar"), a village on the southern frontier of Ephraim (Josh. 16:5; 18:13).

Athach ("stopping place"), a town in southern Judah, to which David sent some of the spoil of Ziklag (1 Sam. 30:30).

Athens ("city of Athena"), the greatest city of classical Greece, capital of the Greek city state of Attica, where Paul founded a Christian church (Acts 17:15-18).

Atroth ("crowns"), a city of the tribe of Gad (Num. 32:35). Some believe , Atroth and Shopfan are one city

and render the name *Atroth-shopfan*, *See also Shopfan*.

Ava ("legion"), an Assyrian city that sent settlers to colonize Samaria (2 Kings 17:24).

Aven ("nothingness"). [1] Another name for the Egyptian city of On, called Heliopolis by the Greeks (Ezek. 30: 17). [2] A valley town in the kingdom of Damascus; probably *Awaniyek* (Amos 1:5).

Avith ("ruins"), a city of Edom, home of King Hadad (Gen. 36:35; 1 Chron. 1:46).

Azekah ("dug up place"), a city in the lowlands of Socoh, less than 32 km. (20 mi.) southwest of Jerusalem; the kings besieging Gibeon were driven here (Josh. 10: 10; 1 Sam. 17:1).

Azem. *See Ezem.*

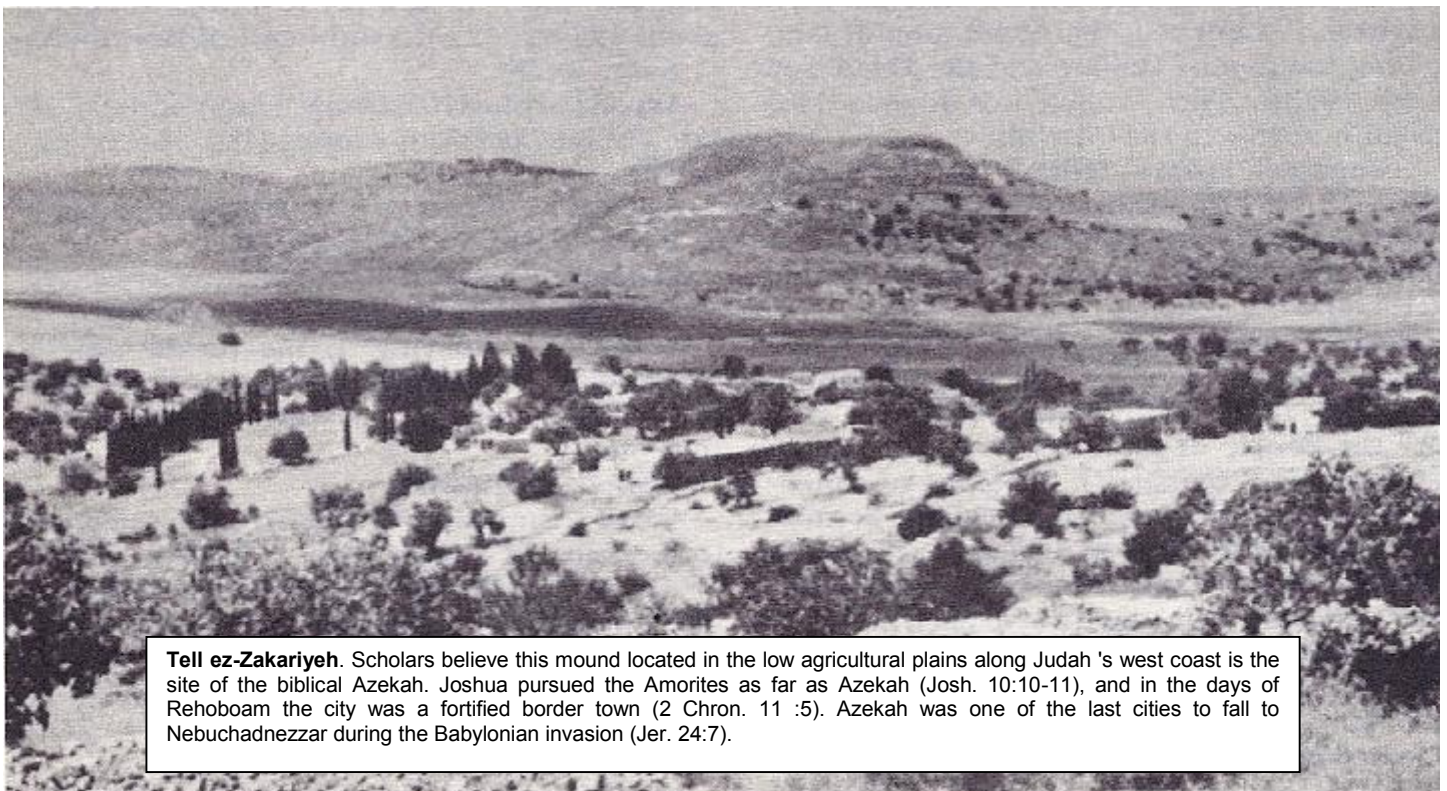
Azmaveth. *See Beth-Azmaveth.*

Azmon ("strong"), a place on the western boundary of Canaan (Num. 34:4).

Aznoth-Tabor ("peaks [ears] of Tabor"), an incline near Mount Tabor, west of Kadesh-Barnea (Josh. 19:34).

Azotus. *See Ashdod.*

Azzah. *See Gaza.*



Tell ez-Zakariyeh. Scholars believe this mound located in the low agricultural plains along Judah 's west coast is the site of the biblical Azekah. Joshua pursued the Amorites as far as Azekah (Josh. 10:10-11), and in the days of Rehoboam the city was a fortified border town (2 Chron. 11 :5). Azekah was one of the last cities to fall to Nebuchadnezzar during the Babylonian invasion (Jer. 24:7).

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End of the A's.

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