

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.

M

Maaleh-acrabbim [Akrabbim] ("ascent of scorpions"), a high place which marks part of the boundary of Judah between Kedish and the Dead Sea (Josh. 15:3; Num. 34:4). Akrabbim is a shortened form of the name.

Maarath ("den"), a town located in the mountains of Judah (Josh. 15:59). It is near Beth-aron and is now called Umman.

Macedonia (meaning unknown), a nation lying to the north of Greece proper (Acts 16:9; 18:5).

Machpelah ("double"), the place where the burial cave of Abraham is located, near Hebron (Gen. 23:17; 25:9).

Madian. *See* Midian.

Madmannah ("measure of a gift"), a town near Gaza in southern Judah (Josh. 15:31). It is perhaps the same as Beth-marcaboth, which is Umm pemneh, about 19.3 km. (12 mi.) north-east of Beersheba. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Madmen ("dunghill"), a location in Moab (Jer. 48:2). It may be modern Khirbet Dimneh, 4 km. (2.5 mi.) northwest of Rabba.

Madmenah ("dung heap"), a village north of Jerusalem in the territory belonging to Benjamin (Isa. 10:31).

Madon ("strife"), a city of northern Canaan (Josh. 11:1; 12:19). The name still exists in Khirbet Madin, 5 km. (3 mi.) south of Hattin.

Magdala ("tower"), a village located on the western edge of the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 15:39). It is present-day el-Mejdel, 4.8 km. (3 mi.) north-northwest of Tiberias.

Magog ("region of Gog"), a country of undetermined location, generally described as being in a northerly direction from Palestine (Ezek. 38:2; 39:6). The first-century Jewish historian Josephus identified the land with the Scythians.

Mahanaim ("tents"), a place on the boundary between Reuben and Gad (Gen. 32:2; Josh. 21:38). It is east of the Jordan and south of the Jabbok. The exact site is undetermined.

Mahaneh-dan ("tents of judgment"), a campsite between Zorah and Eshtaol (Judg. 18:12). It is west of Kirjath-jearim .

Makaz ("an end"), a place mentioned in 1 Kings 4:9; it is thought to be Khirbet el-Mukheigin, south of Ekron.

Makheloth ("congregations"), a desert encampment of the Israelites (Num. 33:25); probably modern Kuntilet Krayeh or Ajurd.

Makkedah ("worshipping"), a city of the Canaanites located on the plain of Judah (Josh. 10:10; 12:16). It is 19.3 km. (12 mi.) southwest of Jerusalem in the plain country of Judah, and is now called Mugar.

Maktesh ("mortar"), a section of Jerusalem where merchants gathered (Zeph. 1:11); probably the northern portion of the city.

Maon ("place of sin"), a mountain city of Judah (Josh. 15:55; 1Sam. 23:24). It is modern Tell Ma'in, about 13.8 km. (8.5 mi.) south of Hebron. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Marah ("bitter"), the fountain of bitter water in the wilderness of Shur where the Israelites first halted after crossing the Red Sea (Exod. 15:23; Num. 33:8). The traditional site is 'Ain Hawarah, about 75.6 km. (47 mi.) from Suez.

Maralah ("sleep"), a boundary village of Zebulun (Josh. 19: 11). It is probably Tell Ghalta in the Plain of Kishon.

Mareshah ("from the beginning"), a city in the lowlands of Judah (Josh. 15:44; 2 Chron. 11:8). Its ruins are placed at 1.6 km. (1 mi.) southeast of Beit Jibrin. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Maroth ("bitterness"), a town in the lowlands of Judah (Mic. 1:12); possibly the same as Maarath (q.v.).

Mars Hill. *See* Areopagus.

Mashal ("parable"), a city in Asher given to the Levites (1 Chron. 6:74). It is probably located on the

plain south of Accho. It is identical with Mishal (q.v.).

Masrekah ("whistling"), an ancient city in Edom (Gen. 36:36; 1 Chron. 1:47). It is Jebel el-Mushrat, about 35.4 km. (22 mi.) south-southwest of Ma'an.

Massah ("temptation"), the name of a spot in the vicinity of Horeb where the Israelites tempted God (Exod. 17:7; Deut. 6:16). *See also* Meribah [1].

Mattanah ("gift of Jehovah"), an encampment during the latter part of Israel's wandering (Num. 21: 18-19). It was north of the Arnon River and west of the wilderness of Kedemoth.

Mearah ("den"), a place, possibly a cavern, in Sidon in northern Canaan (Josh. 13:4).

Medeba ("waters of grief"), a Moabite town on the Jordan River in the territory of Reuben east of the Arnon (Num. 21:30; Josh. 13:9). It is now Madaba, 9.7 km. (6 mi.) south of Heshbon.

Media ("middle land"), a country of Asia located south of the Caspian Sea, west of Parthia, north of Elam, and east of the Yagros Mountains. During the 400's B.C. the Persians and Medes had a powerful empire here (Esther 1:3, 14, 18; Dan. 8:20).

Megiddo [Megiddon] ("declaring a message"), a city on the southern edge of the Plain of Esdraelon (Jezreel) at the northeast of Mount Carmel (Josh. 12:21; 17:11; Zech. 12:11).

Megiddon. *See* Megiddo.

Me-jarkon ("the waters of Jordan"), a city in the territory of Dan near Joppa (Josh. 19:46).

Mekonah ("provision"), a town of Judah named in connection with Ziklag and other towns of the far south (Neh. 11:28).

Melita ("affording honey"), the island of Malta, located in the Mediterranean Sea (Acts 28:1). It is 96.5 km. (60 mi.) south of Sicily.

Memphis [Noph] ("abode of the good"), an ancient Egyptian city located on the western bank of the Nile in the central portion of the country (Hos. 9:6). It was also called Noph (Jer. 2: 16).

Meonenim ("regardless of time"), a place near Shechem in Ephraim (Judg. 9:37).

Mephaath ("force of waters"), a city allotted to Reuben and assigned to the Levites (Josh. 13:18). It was near Kedemoth or Kirjath-aim.

Merathaim ("double rebellion"), the country of the Chaldeans, also known as Babylon (Jer. 50:21).

Meribah ("quarrel"). [1] The desert location where Moses smote the rock (Exod. 17:7). [2] Another name for Kadesh-barnea in the wilderness of Zin, where the Hebrew people rebelled against Moses (Num. 20: 13). In Deuteronomy 32:51 the place is called Meribah- Kadesh. Meribah-Kadesh.

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Road to Medeba. A Roman miles tone stands beside the ancient road from Dibon to Medeba (visible in the distance). The Moabite town of Medeba was given to the tribe of Reuben (Josh. 13:9, 16); but the city later defected to the Moabites once again (cf. Isa. 15:2). During the intertestamental period, the Jewish military leader John Maccabeus was killed in this town.

(Num. 20: 13). In Deuteronomy 32:51 the place is called Meribah- Kadesh.

Meribah-Kadesh. *See* Meribah [2].

Merom ("elevations"), a lake 16.1 km. (10 mi.) north of the Sea of Galilee (Josh. 11:5,7).

Meroz ("secret"), a place near Kishon (Judg. 5:23). Its exact location is unknown, but may be modern Khirbet Marus, about 12.1 km. (7.5 mi.) south of Kedesh of Naphtali.

Mesha ("salvation"), a boundary marker of the descendants of Joktan (Gen. 10:30). It seems to be west of Sephar. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Mesopotamia ("between two rivers"), a region located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Gen. 24: 10; Deut. 23:4), excluding the mountain regions where the rivers take their rise and the low-lying plains of Babylon.

Metheg-ammah ("bridle of bondage"), a stronghold of the Philistines captured by David (2 Sam. 8: 1). Many scholars believe that the name refers to Gath.

Michmash [Michmas] ("he that strikes"), a town of Benjamin (1 Sam 13:5; Isa. 10:28; Ezra 2:27). The pass of Mukkmas retains the name. The town is 12.1 km. (7.5 mi.) northeast of Jerusalem and east of Bethaven.

Michmethah ("the gift of a striker"), a landmark boundary of Manasseh on the western side of the Jordan, east of Shechem (Josh. 17:7).

Middin ("judgment"), a village in the wilderness of Judah (Josh. 15:61). It is probably modern Khirbet Abu Tabak in the Valley of Achor.

Midian [Madian] ("contention"), the land of the descendants of Midian beyond the Jordan. It included

Edom, the Sinai Peninsula, and Arabian Petra (Exod 2:15-16; Judg. 6:1; Acts 7:29). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Migdalel ("tower of God"), a fortified city of Naphtali (Josh. 19:38). It may be modern Mujeidil 20.1 km. (12.5 mi.) northwest of Kedesh [Kades].

Migdalgad ("tower compassed about"), a lowland city of Judah (Josh. 15:37); probably modern Khirbet el-Mejdeleh 8 km. (5 mi.) south of Beit Jibrin.

Migdol ("tower"). [1] A location in the extreme north of Egypt (Jer. 44:1; 46:14). [2] An encampment of the Israelites west of the Red Sea (Exod. 14:2; Num 33:7).

Migron ("fear"). [1] A Benjamite village north of Michmash (Isa. 10:28). It may be modern Makrum. [2] If there were two Migrons, the second was located at the outermost part of Gibeah and considerably south of Michmash (1 Sam. 14:2). Tell Miryam has been suggested as the site.

Miletus [Miletum] ("scarlet"), a coastal city of Ionia (Acts 20: 15; 2 Tim. 4:20). It was 57.9 km, (36 mi.) south of Ephesus.

Millo ("fulness"). [1] A bastion in Jerusalem built in anticipation of an Assyrian siege (2 Sam. 5:9; 1 Kings 9: 15). [2] An acropolis of Shechem, a high platform of artificial fill (Judg. 9:6, 20).

Minni ("prepared"), a portion of the land of Armenia (Jer. 51:27). It was directly south of Lake Urmia and next to the Kingdom of Ararah of the Araxes River.

Minnith ("prepared"), a location east of the Jordan where Jephthah slaughtered the Ammonites (Judg. 11:33; Ezek. 27:17). It may be modern Khirbet Hamzeh 6.4 km. (4 mi.) northeast of Hebron.

Misgab ("light"), an unidentified location in Moab (Jer. 48: 1). It may not be a proper name.

Mishal [Misheal] ("requiring"), a territorial town of Asher (Josh. 19:26; 21:30); not to be confused with Mashal.

Misrephoth-maim ("hot waters"), a location in northern Palestine (Josh 11:8; 13:6). It was on the frontier of the country of the Sidonians. It is identified with modern Khirbet el-Musheir-efeh 17.7 km. (11 mi.) north of Accho and 8 km. (5 mi.) from the Mediterranean.

Mithcah ("sweetness"), an unidentified encampment of the Israelites in the wilderness (Num. 33:28).

Mitylene ("purity"), the principal city of the Island of Lesbos off the western coast of Asia Minor (Acts 20: 14).

Mizar ("little"), a hill east of the Jordan, probably within sight of Mount Hermon, on Lebanon's eastern slope (Psa. 42:6).

Mizpah [Mizpeh] ("a watchtower"). [1] A mound of stones on Mount Gilead (Gen. 31:49). [2] A Hivite settlement in northern Palestine at the foot of Mount

Hermon (Josh. 11:3). [3] A city in the lowlands of Judah (Josh. 15:38). It was just north of Eleutheropolis [Beit Jibrin]. [4] A town in Gilead east of the Jordan (Judg. 11:34). It is possibly identical with Ramath-Mizpeh. [5] A town of Benjamin just north of Jerusalem (Josh. 18:26; 1 Kings

15:22). The exact site is uncertain. [6] A place in Moab (1 Sam. 22:3); perhaps modern Rujm el-Meshrefeh west-southwest of Madaba.

Moladah ("generation"), a southern city of Judah (Josh. 15:26; Neh. 11:26).

Moreh ("stretching"). [1] The first stopping place of Abraham after he entered Canaan (Gen. 12:6). It was near Shechem. [2]. A hill lying at the foot of the valley of Jezreel (Judg. 7: 1). It is probably modern Jebel Dahy or Little Hermon about 12.9 km. (8 mi.) northwest of Mount Gilboa.

Moresbeth-gath ("possession of Gath"), the home town of Micah (Mic. 1:14). It may be modern Tell ej-Judeiyeh about 32 km. (2 mi.) north of Eleutheropolis.

Moriah ("bitterness of the Lord"). [1] An elevation in Jerusalem on which Solomon built the temple (2 Chron. 3:1). Probably the same hilltop was used as the threshing floor of Araunah. The name Moriah was possibly ascribed by the Chronicler because of its traditional meaning (2 Sam. 24: 18; 2 Chron. 3: 1). [2] The hill on which Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:2). The site is uncertain, but Samaritans identify Moriah with Moreh [1]. This seems unlikely.

Mosera ("bonds"), the location of an Israelite wilderness encampment near Mount Hor on the border of Edom (Deut. 10:6).

Moseroth ("discipline"), a desert encampment of the Hebrews (Num. 33:30). Some identify it with Mosera (q.v.).

Mozah ("unleavened"), a city allotted to Benjamin (Josh 18:26); probably Kalunya 7.6 km. (4.7 mi.) northwest of Jerusalem on the road to Jaffa.

Myra ("weep"), a town of Lycia where Paul changed ships on his way to Rome (Acts 27:5). It is now called Dembre.

Mysia ("abominable"), a province in northwestern Asia Minor (Acts 16:7). Lydia is to the south and the Aegean Sea to the west of this province.

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Meggido. Joshua conquered the city which stood at this site in the Carmel Mountains during his conquest of Canaan (Josh. 12:21); it was then given to the tribe of Manasseh (Josh. 17:11). King Solomon fortified the city and established accommodations for his chariots and horses here (1 Kings 9:15-19). Many people believe that the end-time battle of Armageddon (Hebrew, "hill of Meggido") will take place in this area.

End of the M's.

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