

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.

S

Salamis ("shaken"), a town located on the east end of Cyprus (Acts 13:5). It is 4.8 km. (3 mi.) northwest of modern Famagusta.

Salcah [Salchah] ("thy lifting up"), a city located at the extreme limits of Bashan (Deut. 3:10; Josh. 12:5). It is now Salkhad 106.2 km. (66 mi.) east of the Jordan, opposite Bethshean in Samaria.

Salem ("perfect peace"), the city of Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18; Psa. 76:2). It is possibly modern Salim; however, many believe it to be Jerusalem.

Salim ("path"), the place where John baptized (John 3:23). It is near the waters of Aenon which were probably north of Shechem, although the site is uncertain.

Salmon. *See* Zalmon.

Salmone ("peace"), the easternmost point of the island of Crete (Acts 27:7). It is now known as Cape Sidero.

Salt, City of. *See* City of Salt.

Salt Sea [Dead Sea; East Sea], the body of water at the southern end of the Jordan Valley, which contains no marine life because of its heavy mineral contents (Gen. 14:3; Num. 34: 12). Its modern name is the Dead Sea.

Salt, Valley of, a plain traditionally located at the lower end of the Dead Sea (2 Sam. 8: 13). Another such valley, the Wadi el-Milh (salt), is east of Beersheba, and may be the site of the defeat of the Edomites.

Samaria ("watch mountain"). [1] The capital of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 20: 1; 2 Chron. 18:2; Jer. 41:5). It was 67.6 km. (42 mi.) north of Jerusalem. [2] Another name for the kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 13:32; 2 Kings 17:24).

Samos ("full of gravel"), an island of Greece (Acts 20: 15). It is off the eastern coast of Asia Minor southwest of Ephesus.

Samothracia ("of the Samians and Thracians"), a small island in the Aegean Sea off the southern coast of Thrace (Acts 16:11).

Sansannah ("branch"), a village in extreme southern Judah (Josh. 15:31). It is probably modern Khirbet esh-Shamsaniyat about 16.1 km. (10 mi.) north-northeast of Beersheba.

Saphir ("delightful"), a town in Judah (Mic, 1:11). It was west of Hebron and may be Khir-bet el-Kom.

Sardis ("prince of joy"), the capital city of Lydia where a church was located (Rev. 1:11; 3: 1,4). It was on the east bank of the Pactolus River about 80.5 km. (50 mi.) east of Smyrna.

Sarid ("survivor"), a landmark in the territory of Zebulun (Josh. 19:10, 12). It is modern Tell Shadud in the northern portion of the Plain of Esdraelon [Jezreel] about 8 km. (5 mi.) southwest of Nazareth.

Saron, the Greek form of Sharon (q.v.).

Seba (meaning unknown), an African nation bordering the land of Cush (Psa. 72: 10; Isa. 43:3). There is some confusion between Sheba and Seba, but they are probably two distinct locations.

Secacah ("thicket"), a city of Judah near the Dead Sea (Josh. 15:61). It was situated in the Valley of Achor.

Sechu ("defense"), a location with a well on the route from Gibeah to Ramah (1 Sam. 19:22).

Seir ("tempest"). [1] The valley and mountains of Aravah from the Dead Sea south to the Elanitic Gulf (Gen. 14:6; 32:3). Seir was the name of the mountain range in Edom and the name came to include the entire territory. [2] A ridge on Judah's border west of Kirjathjearim (Josh. 15:10). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Seirath ("tempest"), a place in Mt. Ephraim to which Ehud fled after he murdered Eglon (Judg. 3:26).

Sela [Selah] ("a rock"). [1] The capital of Edom, located between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqabah (2 Kings 14:7; Isa. 16:1). It is also called Petra. [2] A rock formation about 1,160 m. (3,800 ft.) above sea level, which dominates the city of Petra (cf. Judg. 1:36). It is now called Ummel-Bizarah.

Sela-hammahlekoth ("rock of divisions"), a cliff in the wilderness near Maon where David escaped from Saul (1 Sam. 23:28).

Seleucia ("beaten by the waves"), a Syrian seaport from which Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey (Acts 13:4). It is located 8 km. (5 mi.) north of the mouth of the Orontes River.

Seneh ("enemy"), the more southerly of two rocks in the passage between Michmash and Geba (1 Sam. 14:4-5). It is 10.5 km. (6.5 mi.) northeast of Jerusalem.



Ruins of Samaria. A city with a long history, Samaria was capital of the northern kingdom of Israel from the reign of Omri in the ninth century B.C. This basilica near the forum at Samaria was built by Herod the Great, who named the town Sebaste in honor of his Roman patron, Augustus (*Sebaste* is the Greek equivalent of the Latin *Augustus*). The evangelist Philip preached here, as did Peter and John (Acts 8:5-25).

Senir. *See* Shenir.

Sephar ("scribe"), an area in the southeastern portion of Arabia (Gen. 10:30).

Sepharad ("a book descending"), a place where the Jerusalem exiles lived (Obad. 20). It is probably Sardis in Asia Minor (q.v.).

Sepharvaim ("the two scribes"), a city formerly identified with Sippar on the east bank of the Euphrates; it is now believed to be the Syrian city Shabara' (Isa. 37:13).

Shaalabbin ("place of foxes"), a city in Dan (Josh. 19:42). It may be modern Silbit 4.8 km. (3 mi.) northwest of Ajalon.

Shaalbim ("place of foxes"), a town of the tribe of Dan (Judg. 1:35). It is identical with Shaalabbin.

Shaaraim [Sharaim] ("gates"). [1] A town in lowland Judah west of Socoh (1 Sam. 17:52; Josh. 15:36). [2] A town of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:31). It is identified with Tell

el-Far'ah about 24.9 km. (15.5 mi.) south-southeast of Gaza.

Shahazimah ("heights"), a city of Issachar (Josh. 19:22). It is between Mount Tabor and the Jordan, and is probably modern Tell el Mekarkash [Mukarkash].

Shalim ("foxes"), a district in Ephraim through which Saul passed when searching for his father's livestock (1 Sam. 9:4).

Shalisha ("the third"), an area near Mount Ephraim through which Saul passed when searching for his father's livestock (1 Sam. 9:4). It was probably northeast of Lydda.

Shamir ("thorn"). [1] A city in the mountainous district of Judah (Josh. 15:48). It is probably modern el-Bireh. [2] A town in Mount Ephraim (Judg. 10:1-2). Sanur between Samaria and En-gannim and Samaria have been suggested as sites.

Shapher ("bright"), a mountain encampment during the Hebrews' wanderings in the wilderness (Num. 33:23). Jebel 'Araif en-Nakah, south of Kadesh, has been suggested as the site.

Sharaim. *See* Shaaraim [1].

Sharon [Saron] ("his song"). [1] A region that lies between the Mediterranean Sea from Joppa to Carmel and the central portion of Palestine (1 Chron. 27:29; Acts 9:35). [2] A district east of the Jordan occupied by the tribe of Gad (1 Chron. 5:16).

Sharuhem ("gracious house"), a city in Simeon near Beth-lebaoth (Josh. 19:6). It is perhaps identical with Shaaraim [2].

Shaveh ("the plain"), a place near Salem mentioned as the King's Valley (Gen. 14:17; 2 Sam. 18:18). It may be the same as the Kidron Valley.

Shaveh Kiriathaim ("plains of Kiriathaim"), a plain near Kirjathaim [1], the dwelling place of the Emim (Gen. 14:5).

Shearing house, the location where the royal family of King Ahaziah of Judah were slaughtered (2 Kings 10:12-14). The Hebrew name is *Beth 'eked*; the site is probably Beit Kad, about 25.7 km. (16 mi.) north-northeast of Samaria.

Sheba ("oath"). [1] A country in southwest Arabia (1 Kings 10:1-13; 2Chron. 9:1-12). Its capital was Ma'rib, which was about 60 miles east-northeast of San'a, the present capital of Yemen. [2] A town of Simeon mentioned after Beer-sheba (Josh. 19:2). Its location' is uncertain. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Shebah ("seven"), the well at Beer-sheba where Isaac made a covenant with Abimelech (Gen. 26:33).

Shebam ("fragrance"), a city east of the Jordan given to the tribes of Reuben and Gad (Num. 32:3). It is located 8 km. (5 mi.) from Heshbon. It is identical with Sibmah (q.v.).

Shebarim ("hopes"), a place to which the Israelites ran on their flight from Ai (Josh. 7:5). The location of the site is unknown.

Shechem [Sichem; Sychem] ("portion"), an ancient city in central Palestine (Gen. 12:6; 33: 18; Josh. 24:32; Acts 7: 16), in the hill country of Ephraim. It is present-day Nablus, located about 66 km. (41 mi.) north of Jerusalem between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Shen ("tooth"), a place near which Samuel erected a stone memorial to the victory over the Philistines (1 Sam. 7: 12).

Shenir [Senir] ("light that sleeps"), the Amorite name for Hermon (Deut. 3:9; Ezek. 27:5).

Shepham ("wild"), a location on the northeastern boundary of the Promised Land near Riblah (Num. 34: 10).

Shibmah. *See* Sibmah.

Shicron ("his wages"), a town on the northern boundary of Judah (Josh. 15:11).

Shihon ("wall of strength"), a town near Mount Tabor (Josh. 19: 19). It is perhaps at modern' Ayun esh-Sha'in.

Shihor [Sihor] ("blackness"), the east branch of the Nile River (1 Chron. 13:5; Jer2: 18). Ideally, this was to be Israel's southern boundary.

Shihor-libnath ("black of whiteness"), a boundary stream of Asher (Josh. 19:26). It is probably the Nahr ez-Zirka 9.7 km. (6 mi.) south of Dor.

Shilhim ("armed"), a city in southern Judah near Lebaath (Josh. 15:32). It is identified with Shaaraim [2].

Shiloah [Siloah] ("sent"), a waterway of Jerusalem (Isa. 8:6; Neh. 3: 15). It carried water from the spring of Gihon to the Pool of Shelah to irrigate the Kidron Valley outside the city. It is identical with Siloam [1].

Shiloh ("peace"), a town in Ephraim (Josh. 18:1-10; Judg. 21:19). It is halfway between Shechem and Bethel.

Shimron ("watch-height"), an ancient city belonging to Zebulun (Josh. 11: 1; 19: 15). It is possibly Semuniyeh 10.1 km. (6.3 mi.) west of Nazareth. *See also* "All the People of the Bible. "

Shinar ("watch of him that sleeps"), the plains later known as Babylonia or Chaldea, through which the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow (Gen. 10:10; Isa. 11:11).

Shittim ("thorns"). [1] The final Israelite encampment before crossing the Jordan. Here Moses bade farewell and the Law was completed (Num. 25: 1; Josh. 2: 1). It was in Moab, east of Jordan, opposite Jericho. [2] A dry and unfruitful valley (Joel 3: 18). The name may not denote any particular valley, but it may refer to the Kidron Wadi which starts northwest of Jerusalem, moves toward the east and runs toward the Dead Sea. It may also be a portion of the Arabah around the Dead Sea.

Shoa ("kings"), a location mentioned along with Babylonia, Chaldea, and Assyria (Ezek. 23:23); it probably refers to a settlement of the Sutu nomads of the Syrian Desert.

Shocho [Shochoh; Shoco; Socoh; Socho; Sochoh] ("defense"). [1] A town in lowland Judah or the hilly border of the Valley of Elah (Josh. 15:35; 2 Chron. 11:7; 28: 18; 1 Sam. 17: 1). [2] A town in Judah's hill country (Josh. 15:48). It is modern Khirbet Shuweikeh 16.1 km. (10 mi.) south-southwest of Hebron. [3] A place in one of Solomon's administrative districts (1 Kings 4: 10). It is modern Tell-er-Ras about 16.1 km. (10 mi.) northwest of Samaria.

Shochoh. *See* Shocho.

Shoco. *See* Shocho.

Shophan ("burrow"), a fortress city east of the Jordan River that was captured and rebuilt by the tribe of Gad (Num. 32:35).

Shual ("fox "), a district north of Michmash (1 Sam. 13: 17). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Shunem ("their sleep"), a town near Jezreel that was allotted to the tribe of Issachar (Josh. 19:18; 1 Sam. 28:4). It was opposite Mount Gilboa. The site is present-day Solem or Sulam.

Shur ("wall"), a desert in the northwest part of the Sinai Peninsula (Gen. 16:7; 25:18). It was outside the eastern border of Egypt and was probably a caravan route between Egypt and Beer-sheba.

Shushan [Susa] ("a lily"), the capital of Elam inhabited by the Babylonians; later a royal residence and capital of the Persian Empire (Neh. 1:1; Dan. 8:2). The city was also known as Susa. The site is modern Shush on the Ulai River.

Sibmah [Shibmah] ("to be cold"), a town of Reuben and Gad (Josh. 13: 19; Num. 32:38). It is identical with Shebam (q.v.).

Sibraim ("twofold hope"), a northern boundary marker of Canaan (Ezek. 47: 16). It is probably Sepharvaim.

Shechem. Situated in the hill country of Ephraim (Josh. 20:7) near Mount Gerizim, Shechem is today known as Tell Balata. The first Palestinian site mentioned in Genesis, Shechem was the place where Abraham built an altar to the Lord (Gen. 12:6-7). Here also the Israelites buried the bones of Joseph, which they had brought from Egypt (Josh. 24:32).



Sichem. *See* Shechem.

Siddim ("the tilled field"), a valley near the Dead Sea (Gen. 14:3, 8, 10), full of bitumen pits.

Sidon [Zidon] ("hunting"), an ancient city of Canaan (Gen. 10: 15, 19; Josh. 11:8; Luke 4:26). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Sihor. *See* Shihor.

Silla ("exalting"), a place near Millo where King Joash was murdered (2 Kings 12:20).

Siloah. *See* Shiloah.

Siloam ("sent"). [1] A famous pool of Jerusalem at the south end of Hezekiah's tunnel (John 9:7). It is identical with Shiloah (q.v.). [2] A tower on the Ophel ridge near Siloam (Luke 13:4).

Sin ("bush"). [1] A city on the eastern side of the Nile (Ezek. 30:15-16). It is possibly Pelusium; but is also identified with Syene, which is present-day Aswan at the first cataract of the Nile. [2] A wilderness area located between the Gulf of Suez and Sinai (Exod. 16:1; Num. 33:11-12).

Sinai [Sina] ("a bush"). [1] An area in the center of the peninsula that lies between the horns of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and the Gulf of Aqabah (Exod. 16:1; Acts 7:30-38). [2] A mountain, called also Horeb, where the Israelites received the Ten Commandments (Exod. 19:18). The location of the site is uncertain, although it is generally agreed to be in central Sinai. The traditional site is Jebel Musa, but other possibilities are Mount Serbal and Ras es-Safsafah.

Sinim ("south country"), a land from which the scattered Israelites were again to be gathered (Isa. 49: 12). It probably refers to Syene on the southern Egyptian frontier where there was a Jewish garrison. Earlier scholars believed that China was indicated, but that view has been abandoned.

Sion ("breastplate"). [1] Another name for Mount Hermon (Deut. 4:48). [2] *See* Zion.

Siphmoth ("fruitful"), a place in southern Judah frequented by David (1 Sam. 30:28).

Sirah ("turning"), a well near Hebron where Abner was recalled by Joab (2 Sam. 3:26). It is probably modern 'Ain Sarah.

Sirion ("breastplate"), the name given to Mount Hermon by the Sidonians (Deut. 3:9; Psa.29:6).

Sitnah ("hatred"), the second well dug by Isaac, located in the Valley of Gerar (Gen. 26:21).

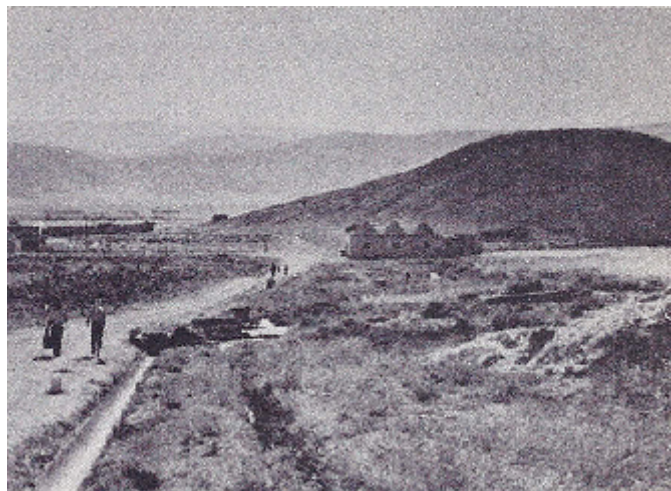
Smyrna ("myrrh"), a city on the western coast of Asia Minor (Rev. 2:8-11). It is 64.4 km. (40 mi.) north of Ephesus.

Socho. *See* Shocho.

Sochoh. *See* Shocho.

Socoh. *See* Shocho.

Sodom [Sodoma] ("their secret"), one of the five Cities of the Plain (Gen. 10: 19; Rom. 9:29), destroyed because of its wickedness. The exact location of the site is unknown, but it is in the Dead Sea area.



Succoth. In this area, Jacob built a house for himself and booths for his cattle (Gen. 33:17); hence the city that grew up at this spot was called Succoth (Hebrew, "tents" or "booths"). The city was given to the tribe of Gad (Josh. 13:27). The mound that now marks the site is known as Tel Deir 'Alla.

Solomon's Pools, a repository of water built by Solomon near Bethlehem (Eccles. 2:6).

Solomon's Porch, a colonnade built by Solomon on the east side of the temple (John 10:23; Acts 3:11).

Soreck ("vine"), a valley in Gaza where Delilah lived (Judg. 16:4). It is modern Wadi es-Saran, which begins 20.9 km. (13 mi.) southwest of Jerusalem and twists northwest toward the Mediterranean.

South Ramoth. *See* Ramath.

Spain ("rain"), a peninsula in southwestern Europe (Rom. 15:24). The nation was known as Hispania to the Romans.

Succoth ("tents"), a town where Jacob built himself a house (Gen. 33:17; Josh. 13:27). It was east of the Jordan between Peniel and Shechem. Its probable location is Deir 'Alla, about 1.6km. (1 mi.) west of where the Jabbok bulges and turns south.

Sukkiims ("booth-dwellers"), a nation that assisted Shishak of Egypt when he invaded Judah (2 Chron. 12:3). Its population was probably of Libyan origin.

Sur ("rebellion"), a gate in Jerusalem, possibly leading from the King's palace to the temple (2 Kings 11:6). The parallel passage calls it the Gate of the Foundation (2 Chron. 23:5).

Susa, *See* Shushan.

Sychar ("end"), a town of Samaria near Jacob's well (John 4:5).

Sychem. *See* Shechem.

Syene ("a bush"), a town on the southern frontier of Egypt (Ezek. 29: 10; 30:6).

Syracuse ("that draws violently"), a city on the east coast of Sicily (Acts 28: 12).

Syria (a form of the word *Assyria*), the country lying north and east of Palestine (Judg. 10:6; 1 Kings 10:29; Acts 15:23). It stretched far inland from the

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Mount Sinai. Viewed from a trail leading to its summit, Jebel Musa (right) is traditionally considered to be the biblical Mount Horeb, or Sinai. The Lord revealed himself to Moses on this mountain, giving him the Ten Commandments and other laws (Exod. 20:1-17). Jebel Musa is located on the southern portion of the Sinai Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.

Mediterranean and was bounded by the Taurus Mountains to the north.

Syrtis Quicksands ("shallows"), two shoals off the coast of Africa between Carthage and Cyrene (Acts 27: 17). The greater Syrtis is now called the Gulf of Sidra, the lesser Syrtis the Gulf of Gabes.

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