

# ALL THE PLACES OF THE BIBLE

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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.

## B

**Baal** ("master"), a city of Simeon, identical with Baalath-beer (1 Chron. 4:33). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Baalah [Balah; Bilhah]** ("mistress"). [1] A Simeonite town in southern Judah (Josh. 15:29; 19:3; 1 Chron. 4:29). [2] A hill in Judah between Ekron and Jabneel (Josh. 15: 11). [3] *See* Kirjath-jearim.

**Baalath** ("mistress"), a town of the tribe of Dan, located near Gezer (Josh. 19:44; 1 Kings 9: 18; 2 Chron. 8:6).

**Baalath-beer** ("mistress of a well"), a border town of the tribe of Simeon, sometimes called "Ramoth (or Ramath) of the south" (Josh. 19:8). It is identical with Baal (q.v.).

**Baale-judah.** *See* Kirjath-jearim.

**Baal-gad** ("the lord of fortune; Gad is lord"), a town at the foot of Mount Hermon that marked the northern limit of Joshua's conquest (Josh. 11:17; 12:7).

**Balal-hamon** ("lord of a multitude"), a place where King Solomon had a vineyard (Song of Sol. 8: 11); its exact location is unknown.

**Baal-hazor** ("lord of Hazor [enclosure]"), the place near Ephraim where Absalom killed Ammon (2 Sam. 13:23); the probable site is about 7 km. (4.5 mi.) northeast of Bethel.

**Baal-hermon** ("lord of Hermon"), the site of Canaanite rituals on the eastern slope of Mount Hermon, which marked the northwest boundary of the half-tribe of Manasseh (Judg. 3:3; 1 Chron. 5:23).

**Baal-meon [Beon]** ("lord of the house"), an Amorite city on the north border of Moab (Num. 32:38; Ezek. 25:9).

**Baal-perazim [Perazim]** ("lord of breaches"), a place near the Valley of Rephaim, where King David won a battle with the Philistines (2 Sam. 5:20). It is called simply Perazim in Isaiah 28:21.

**Baal-shalisha** ("lord of a third part"), a village that presented food to the prophet Elisha; probably located about 22 km. (13.5 mi.) northwest of Gilgal (2 Kings 4:42).

**Baal-tamar** ("lord of palms"), a place near Gibeah and Bethel in the territory of Benjamin, where the Israelites repelled the army of Gibeah (Judg. 20:33).

**Baal-zephon** ("lord of the North"), the site that the Israelites faced when they encamped between Migdol and the Red Sea on their Exodus from Egypt (Exod. 14:2; Num. 33:7).

**Babel** ("gate of God"), a city built by Nimrod on the Plain of Shinar(Sumer; Gen. 10: 10).

**Babylon** (meaning unknown), the capital city of the Babylonian Empire, famous for its hanging gardens; a focal point of the Jewish captivity beginning in 586 B.C. (2 Kings 17:24-25; Isa. 39:3, 6-7).

**Baca** ("weeping; balsam tree"), a valley of Palestine; possibly the Valley of Rephaim, where many balsam trees are found (Psa. 84:6).

**Bahurim** ("low ground"), a village near the Mount of Olives on the road from Jerusalem to the Jordan River (2 Sam. 3:16; 16:5; 17:18; 19: 16).

**Bajith** ("house"), a Moabite city or temple (Isa. 15:2).

**Balah.** *See* Baalah.

**Bamoth** ("high places"), an Israelite encampment north of the Arnon River (Num. 21: 19).

**Bamoth-baal.** *See* Bamoth.

**Bashan** ("fertile plain"), a district stretching from the Upper Jordan Valley to the Arabian Desert, containing "the whole region of Arzob" (Deut. 3:4-5, to, 13; 1Kings 4: 13; Psa. 22: 12; Ezek. 27:6; 39: 18).

**Bealoth** ("mistresses; possessors"), a village in southern Judah (Josh. 15:24).

**Beautiful Gate**, a portion of the east gate of Jerusalem where Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3:2).

**Beer** ("a well"). [1] A temporary encampment of the Israelites in the wilderness (Num. 21:16-18); possibly the same as Beer-elim. [2] A place where Jotham sought refuge from his brother Abimelech (Judg. 9:21); possibly the same as Beeroth.

**Beer-elim** ("well of Elim"), a village in southern Moab (Isa. 15:8).

**Beer-lahai-roi [Lahai-roi]** ("well of the living one who sees me"), the well of Hagar, located between Kadesh and Bered on the road to Shur, about 80 km. (50 mi.) southwest of Beersheba (Gen. 16:14). It is shortened to Lahai-roi in Genesis 24:62.

**Beeroth** ("wells"). [1] A place on the border of Edom where the wandering Israelites camped; also called Beeroth Bene-Jaakan or Bene-jaakan (Deut. 10:6; Num. 33:31). [2] A city of Gibeon assigned to the tribe of Benjamin (Josh. 9: 17; 18:25).

**Beer-sheba** ("well of oaths"), a city in southern Judah, site of Abraham's covenant with Abimelech; it is located about 45 km. (28 mi.) southwest of Hebron (Gen. 21:14, 22-31; Josh. 15:28).

**Beeshterah.** *See* Ashtaroth-Karnaim.

**Bela [Belah]** ("destroying"), one of the Cities of the Plain, probably Zoar (Gen. 14:2). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Bene-berak** ("sons of lightning"), a town of the tribe of Dan, about 6 km. (4 mi.) east of modern Jaffa (Josh. 19:45).

**Bene-jaakan.** *See* Beeroth [1].

**Beon.** *See* Baal-meon.

**Berachah** ("blessing"), a valley in Judah near Tekoa, named by Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:26). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Berea** ("watered"), a city in Macedonia about 80 km. (50 mi.) west of Thessalonica (Acts 17:10); now called Verria, or Salonica.

**Bered** ("hail"), a place in the wilderness of Shur in southern Palestine, not far from Kadesh (Gen. 16:14). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Berothah [Berothai; Chun]** ("of a well"), a town in northern Palestine between Hamath and Damascus, captured by David; also called Chun (2 Sam. 8:8; 1 Chron. 18:8; Ezek. 47: 16).

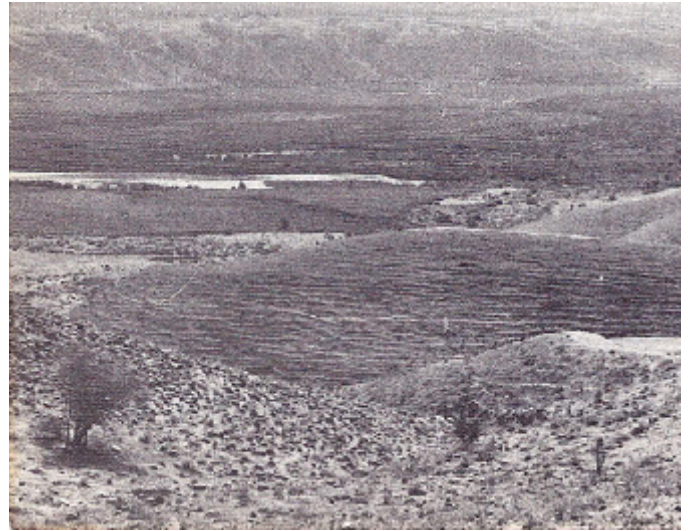
**Betah** ("confidence"), a city of Amam-Zobah (2 Sam. 8:8). It is identical with Tibhath (q.v.).

**Beten** ("valley"), a village of the tribe of Asher (Josh. 19:25); Eusebius noted that it was about 12 km. (7.5 mi.) east of Accho.

**Beth-abara [Bethany]** ("house at the ford"), a place on the eastern side of the Jordan River where John the Baptist baptized his converts (John 1:28). The majority of Greek manuscripts read Bethany here instead; however, this city was not identical with Bethany proper.

**Beth-anath [Beth-anoth]** ("house of reply"). [1] A fortress town of the tribe of Naphtali (Josh. 19:38; Judg. 1:33). [2] A town in the mountains of Judah, about 6 km. (4 mi.) from Hebron (Josh. 15:59).

**Bethany** ("house of affliction; place of unripe figs"), a settlement on the hill leading to the Mount of Olives,



**Beth-abara.** John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing converts at Beth-abara when the Pharisees sent messengers to ask whether he was the Messiah. John denied that he was. but he said, "...There standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose" (John 1:26-27). Today this town is known as Qasr el-Yehud.

about 2.6 km. (1.6 mi.) from Jerusalem (Mark 11:1; Luke 19:29).

**Beth-arabah** ("house of the desert"), a village in the Judean wilderness on the boundary between the territories of Judah and Benjamin (Josh. 15:6, 61; 18:22).

**Beth-aram [Beth-haran]** ("house of the heights"), a town of the tribe of Gad, located in the Jordan Valley and noted for its hot springs (Num. 32:36; Josh. 13:27).

**Beth-arbel** ("house of ambush"), a town destroyed by Shalman (Hos. 10:14). Now known as Irbid, it is located about 6 km. (4 mi.) west-northwest of Tiberias.

**Beth-aven** ("house of idols"), a town of the tribe of Benjamin, located in the wilderness near Ai (Josh. 7:2; 18:12; 1 Sam. 13:5).

**Beth-azmaveth [Azmaveth]** ("house of Azmaveth"), a town near Jerusalem, halfway between Geba and Anathoth; perhaps the same as Hizmeh (Neh. 7:28). It is also called simply Azmaveth (Ezra 2:24; Neh. 12:29).

**Beth-birei [Beth-biri]** ("house of my creation"), a town of the tribe of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:31); perhaps the same as Beth-Lebaath (q.v.).

**Beth-car** ("house of the lamb"), a Philistine stronghold in Judah, site of a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines (1 Sam. 7: 11).

**Beth-dagon** ("house of Dagon"). [1] A town located on the border between Asher and Zebulun (Josh. 19:27); probably modern Jelamet el-Atika at the foot of Mount Carmel. [2] A town in the Judean lowlands (Josh. 15:33,41); possibly modern Khirbet Dajun.

**Beth-diblathaim** ("house of fig cakes"), a town in Moab (Jer. 48:21-22); possibly the same as Almondiblathaim (q.v.).

**Beth-el [Bethel]** ("house of God"), a town located about 18 km. (11 mi.) north of Jerusalem; an important site throughout the history of Israel (cf. Gen. 13:3; 28:18-19; Josh. 16:2; Judg. 21: 19). It was formerly called Luz. The modern town of Bertin is located near the ruins.

**Beth-emek** ("house of the valley"), a town near the border of Asher; it is bounded on the north side by the ravine of Jiphthah-el (Josh. 19:27). The modern name of this site is Amkah.

**Bethesda** ("house of outpouring or overflowing water"), a pool near the Sheep Gate of Jerusalem reputed to have healing qualities (John 5:2-3).

**Beth-ezel** ("a place near"), a town of southern Judah (Micah 1: 11); present-day Deil el'Asal.

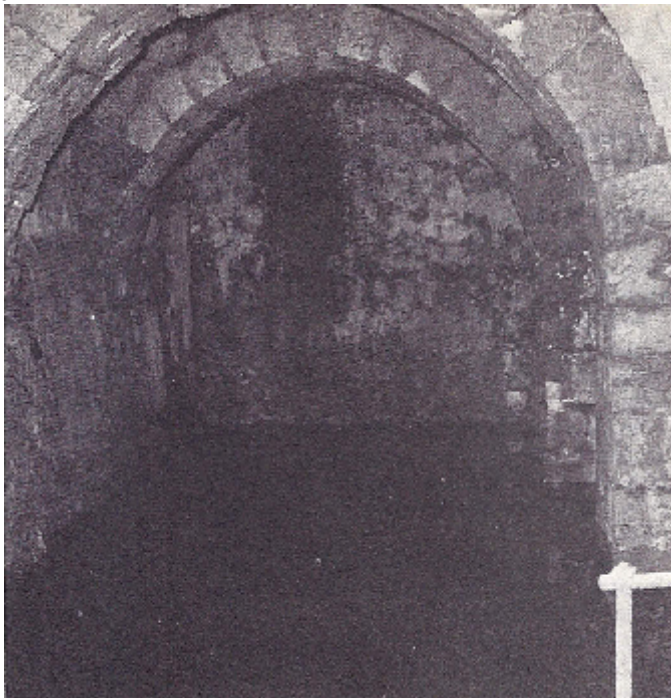
**Beth-gader** ("house of walls"), a town of Judah founded by Hareph (1 Chron. 2:51).

**Beth-gamul** ("camel house"), a city of Moab about 10 km. (6 mi.) east of Dibon (Jer. 48:23).

**Beth-haccerem** ("house of vines"), a town of Judah that maintained a beacon station (Neh. 3: 14; Jer. 6: 1); probably present-day 'Ain Karim, 7 km. (4 mi.) west of Jerusalem.

**Beth-haren.** See Beth-aram.

**Pool of Bethesda.** Said to possess healing virtues, the Pool of Bethesda was located in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate (John 5:2-4). Excavations near the Church of St. Anne in 1888 revealed this pool with five porches and a faded wall fresco depicting an angel and water. Apparently, this pool was regarded as Bethesda in the early Christian era.



**Beth-hogla [Beth-hoglah]** ("partridge house"), a Benjamite village about 6 km. (4 mi.) southeast of Jericho (Josh. 15:6; 18: 19).

**Beth-heron** ("cave house"), twin towns located on the boundary between the territories of Ephraim and Benjamin. Upper Beth-horon was situated on a mountain pass between Jerusalem and the plain to the west. Lower Beth-horon was about 2 km. (1.5 mi.) farther northwest (Josh. 16:3; 18:13; 2 Chron. 8:5; 1 Kings 9:17). The modern names for these towns are Beit 'Ur et Tahta (Lower) and Beit 'Ur el Foka (Upper).

**Beth-jeshimoth [Beth-jesimoth]** ("house of deserts"), a town in Moab near the Dead Sea (Num. 33:49; Josh. 12:3).

**Beth-lebaoth [Lebaoth]** ("house of lionesses"), a town of southern Judah assigned to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19:6). The city is also known as Lebaoth. It is perhaps identical with Beth-birei (q.v.).

**Bethlehem [Ephratah]** (meaning unknown). [1] A town about 10 km. (6 mi.) south of Jerusalem; birthplace of Jesus Christ (Matt. 2:5) and Ephrath (Gen. 35: 16, 19; Ruth 4: 11; cf. Mic. 5:2). Only in later times was it known as Bethlehem. It was also called Ephratah. [2] A city of the tribe of Zebulun located about 11 km. (7 mi.) northwest of Nazareth (Josh. 19: 15). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Beth-marcaboth [Beth-macah]** ("house of chariots"), a town of the tribe of Simeon near Beersheba (Josh. 19:5; 2 Sam. 20: 14; 1 Chron. 4:31).

**Beth-nimrah [Nimrah]** ("house of the leopardess"), a fortified city built by the tribe of Gad east of the Jordan River (Num. 32:36); also called Nimrah.

**Beth-palet [Beth-phelet]** ("house of escape"), a town in the southernmost part of Judah (Josh. 15:27; Neh. 11:26); probably modern el-Meshash.

**Beth-pazzez** ("house of dispersion"), a town of the tribe of Issachar (Josh. 19:21); its modern name is Kerm el-Haddatheh.

**Beth-peor** ("house of Peor"), a site near Pisgah where the Israelites placed their main camp while warring against Og (Deut. 3:29; 4:46).

**Bethphage** ("house of unripe figs"), a settlement near Bethany on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, probably at the descent from the Mount of Olives (Matt. 21: 1; Mark 11:1).

**Beth-rehob [Rehob]** ("house of Rehob [breath]"), a town of the Upper Jordan Valley (Judg. 18:28; 2 Sam. 10:6).

**Bethsaida** ("fish house"), a fishing town on the Sea of Galilee; birthplace of Philip, Andrew, and Simon (Matt. 11:21; Luke 9:10; Mark 6:45).

**Beth-shean [Beth-shan]** ("house of rest"), the southern border town of the region of Galilee; largest of

the ten cities of the Decapolis (Josh. 17:11; 1 Chron. 7:29).

**Beth-shemesh** ("house of the sun"). [1] A town on the road from Ashkelon and Ashdod to Jerusalem; it is located about 38 km. (24 mi.) west of Jerusalem (Josh. 15:10). [2] A Canaanite city in the territory of Naphtali (Josh. 19:38; Judg. 1:33). [3] A city of the tribe of Issachar, probably on the Jordan River near the Sea of Galilee (Josh. 19:22). [4] Another name for the Egyptian city of Heliopolis (Jer. 43:13).

**Beth-shittah** ("house of acacia"), a town of the Jordan Valley between Jezreel and Zerarah, noted for its acacia trees (Judg. 7:22).

**Beth-tappuah** ("house of apricots"), a settlement in the hills of Judah about 8 km. (5 mi.) west of Hebron (Josh. 15:53).

**Bethuel [Bethul]** ("dweller of God"), a town apportioned to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19:4; 1Chron. 4:30). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Beth-zur** ("house of rock"), a city in the hill country of Judah, fortified during the era of Rehoboam (Josh. 15:58; 2 Chron. 11:7). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Betonim** ("bellies"), a town assigned to the tribe of Gad (Josh. 13:26).

**Beulah** ("married"), Isaiah's name for the Promised Land after the Babylonian Captivity (Isa. 62:4).

**Bezek** ("lightning"), a town near Jabesh-gilead in central Palestine where Saul took a census of the Israelites (1 Sam. 11:8).

**Bezer** ("fortress"), a fortified city within the territory of Reuben (Deut. 4:43; Josh. 20:8); probably present-day Unim el-Ammad, about 9 km. (5.5 mi.) east of Heshbon. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Bileam** ("foreigners"), a settlement on the western side of the Jordan River assigned to the tribe of Manasseh (1 Chron. 6:70).

**Bilhah**. See Baalah.

**Bithron** ("ravine"), a gorge in the Aravah east of the Jordan River (2 Sam. 2:29).

**Bithynia** ("violent rainfall"), a country of northwestern Asia Minor, bounded on the north by the Black Sea (Acts 16:7; 1Pet. 1:1).

**Bizjothjah** (meaning uncertain), a town in the southernmost portion of Judah (Josh. 15:28).

**Bochim** ("weepers"), a site near Gilgal where the Israelites repented of their sins (Judg. 2: 1-5).

**Boscath**. See Bozkath.

**Bozez** ("shining"), the name of two crags near Geba; the northern most crag faces Michmash (1 Sam. 14:4).

**Bozkath [Boscath]** ("craggy"), a town near Lachish in southern Judah (Josh. 15:39; 2 Kings 22: 1).

**Bozrah** ("stronghold"). [1] The capital of Edom (Gen. 36:33; 1Chron. 1:44). [2] A city of Moab; probably Bezer (Jer. 48:24).

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