

# 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.

## Z

**Zaanan** ("pointed"), a town in Judah (Mic. 1:11). It is probably identical with Zenan (q.v.). The site is probably modern Arak el-Kharba.

**Zair** ("small"), the place in or near Edom where Joram defeated the Edomites (2 Kings 8:21). It is possibly Sa'ir, about 8 km. (5 mi.) north-northeast of Hebron. Some identify the city with Zior (q.v.)

**Zalmon [Salmon]** ("shady"), a wooded area in Shechem (Judg. 9:48-49; Psa. 68: 14). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Zalmonah** ("shade"), an Israelite encampment in the desert (Num. 33:41-42). It was probably east of Jebel Harien.

**Zanoah** ("marsh"). [1] A town in lowland Judah (Josh. 15:34; Neh 3: 13). It is Khirbet Zanu' or Zanuh about 4.8 km. (3 mi.) southsoutheast of Beth-shemesh. [2] A town in Judah's hill country about 2.1 km. (1.3 mi.) northwest of Yatta (Josh. 15:56; 1 Chron. 4: 18). *See also* "All the People of the Bible. "

**Zaphon** ("north"), a place allotted to the tribe of Gad in the Jordan Valley east of the river (Josh. 13:27).

**Zareah** . *See* Zoreah.

**Zared [Zered]** ("brook "), a brook and valley that marks the greatest limit of the Hebrews' wandering in the wilderness (Num. 21:12; Deut. 2:13-14). It was south of the Arnon, probably Wadi el-Hesa.

**Zarephath** ("smelting place "), a town located near Zidon (Sidon) that was the residence of Elijah (2 Kings 17:9). It is probably modern Sarafand 12.9 km. (8 mi.) south of Zidon.

**Zaretan [Zartanah ; Zarthan]** ("cooling"), a village near Beth-shean in the territory of Manasseh (Josh . 3:16; 1 Kings 4:12). It is probably Tell es-Sa'idiyeh.

**Zareth-shahar** ("beauty of the dawn"), a town allotted to the tribe of Reuben (Josh. 13: 19). It is probably at Zarat on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

**Zartanah**. *See* Zaretan.

**Zarthan**. *See* Zaretan.

**Zebaim** ("gazelles"), the home of one whose descendants returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:57; Neh. 7:59). It is perhaps identical with Zeboim (q.v.).

**Zeboim [Zeboiim]** ("gazelles"). [1] One of the five Cities of the Plain (Gen. 10: 19; 14:2, 9). [2] A valley between Michmash and the wilderness to the east (1 Sam. 13: 16-18). [3] A Benjamite town (Neh. 11:34). It is probably north of Lydda , perhaps at Khirbet Sabeyah.

**Zebulun** ("dwelling"), the territory given to the tribe of Zebulun (Josh. 19:27, 34). It was north of Issachar, east of Asher, and southwest of Naphtali. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Zedad** ("mountain side"), a northern boundary mark of Canaan (Num. 34:8; Ezek. 47: 15). It is probably a tower and has been identified with Sadad , southwest of Homs

**Zelah** ("rib"), a town of Benjamin containing Kish's tomb (2 Sam. 21: 14). It is probably Khirbet Salah northwest of Jerusalem.

**Zelzah** ("noontide"), a town near Rachel 's tomb (1 Sam. 10:2). It was 8 km. (5 mi.) southeast of Jerusalem.

**Zemaraim** ("wool"). [1] A city north of Jericho (Josh. 18:22); we now know that it was 6.4 km. (4 mi.) away from Jericho. [2] A mountain in Ephraim's hill country (2 Chron . 13:4). Possible locations are Burkah and Kafr Nata.

**Zenan** ("coldness"), a village in the allotment of Judah (Josh 15:37). It is probably identical with Zaanan (q.v.).

**Zephath** ("which beholds"), a city of Canaan in the mountains of Kadesh near the Edomite border (Judg. 1: 17). It was later called Hormah (q.v.).

**Zephathah** ("watchtower "), the valley in Judah 's territory near Mareshah in which Asa and Zerah battled (2 Chron. 14:9-10). It is possibly modern Wadi Safiyeh.

**Zer** ("perplexity"), a fortress city of Naphtali (Josh. 19:35). It was located near the southwest bank of the Sea of Galilee . It may be Madon (q.v.).

**Zered**. *See* Zared.

**Zereda** ("ambush "), a village in Manasseh (1 Kings 11:26). It was located to the north of Mount Ephraim

about 24.1 km. (15 mi.) southwest of Shechem. It is identical with Zaretan (q.v.)

**Zeredathah** ("cool"), a village near Bethshean (2 Chron. 4: 17). Many suppose this place is identical with Zaretan (q.v.).

**Ziddim** ("huntings"), a fortress city of Naphtali (Josh. 19:35). It is possibly Hattim 8.8 km. (5.5 mi.) northwest of Tiberias.

**Zidon.** See Sidon.

**Ziklag** ("measure pressed down"), a city in the south of Judah (1 Sam. 30: 1; 2 Sam. 1:1; 4: 10). It is probably Tell el-Khutweifel about 16.1 km. (10 mi.) north of Beer-sheba.

**Zin** ("swelling "), a wilderness on the southern border of Canaan, not to be confused with the Wilderness of Sin. It was either a part of the Wilderness of Paran or bordered on the wilderness which contained Kadesh-barnea (Num. 20:1; 27:14; Josh. 15:1-3).

**Zion [Sion]** ("monument ; fortress; set up"), one of the hills on which Jerusalem stood. It came to be applied to the temple and the whole of Jerusalem and its people as a community whose destiny depends on God (2 Sam. 5:7; Isa. 8: 18; Psa. 48: 11; Joel 2:23). Zion also was a symbol of heaven (Rev. 14:1).

**Zior** ("smallness "), a city in Judah near Hebron (Josh. 15:54). Some identify the city with Zair (q.v.)

**Ziph** ("falsehood"). [1] A city in southern Judah (Josh. 15:24). It was located between Ithnan and Telem and is probably modern ez-Teifah . [2] A town in Judah 's hill country (Josh. 15:55; 2 Chron . 11:8). It is Tell Zif 4 mi. southeast of Hebron. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Ziphron** ("rejoicing"), a place specified by Moses as the northern boundary of the Promised Land (Num. 34:9). It is probably Za'feranh southeast of Restan.

**Ziz** ("flower"), the pass that runs from the western shore of the Dead Sea north of Engedi to the wilderness of Judah (2 Chron. 20: 16). It is probably Wadi Hasasah.

**Zoan** ("motion"), a city on the eastern bank of the Nile Delta on the Tanitic branch of the river (Ezek. 30: 14). It was known to the Greeks as Tanis and is now San el-Hagar.

**Zoar** ("small"), one of the five Cities of the Plain of the Jordan (Gen. 14:2; 19:22). It probably was located at the southeast end of the Dead Sea near es-Safi. The original site is believed to be under the Dead Sea's waters.

**Zobah [Zoba]** ("station"), a portion of Syria east of Coelesyria that was a separate empire during the days of Saul, David, and Solomon (1 Sam. 14:47; 2 Sam. 8:3; 10:6).

**Zohelath** ("that creeps; serpent"), a stone beside Engogel near the Well of the Virgin. It was here that Adonijah sacrificed animals (1 Kings 1:9).

**Zophim** ("place for a watchman"), a place on top of Pisgah where Balaam viewed the Israelite camp (Num. 23: 14). It is possibly Tal'al es-Safa.

**Zorah** ("leprosy"), a city in the lowlands of Judah allotted to the tribe of Dan (Josh. 19:41; 2 Chron. 11:10). The site is Sar'ah about 22.5 km. (14 mi.) west of Jerusalem. It is identical with Zorean (q. v.).

**Zoreah [Zareah]** ("wasp; hornet"), a town in the lowlands of Dan (Josh. 15:33; Neh. 11:29). It is identical with Zorah (q.v.).

**Zuph** ("covering"), a district of unknown location (1 Sam. 9:5). The usual location given is about 40.2 km. (25 mi.) southwest of Shechem. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

End of the Z's.

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