

~ABEL-BETH-MAACAH (100)

(A'bel-beth-ma'a-cah) Abel of Beth-maacah, Watercourse of the House of Maacah]

- **A fortified city of Naphtali in northern Palestine probably 7 kilometers (4 miles) West-Northwest of Dan, identified with **Tell Abil, Tel Avel Bet Ma`akha**. It was favorably located on the road from Hazor northward at the intersection of the East-West route from Damascus to Tyre.**
- **David's men under Joab besieged the city when the rebel Sheba fled there. Thereupon, a wise woman, speaking for the peaceable and faithful one's of Israel, pleaded with Joab not to destroy Abel. It was from of old the place to inquire for wise judgments, hence **a mother in Israel**. This meaning also, probably, a metropolis or city having dependent towns. Heeding this woman's advice, the inhabitants pitched Sheba's head over the wall, and the city was spared.**
- **And Sheba went passing through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah. As for all the Bichrites, they then congregated together and also went in after him. (2 Samuel 20:14)**
- **And they proceeded to come and lay siege against him in Abel of Beth-maacah and cast up a siege rampart against the city, as it was standing within a rampart. And all the people that were with Joab were undermining the wall, to throw it down. (2 Samuel 20:15)**
- **And a wise woman began to call from the city; Listen, men, listen! say; please, to Joab, Come near as far as here, and let me speak to you. (2 Samuel 20:16)**
- **So he went near to her, and the woman then said; Are you Joab? To which he said; I am. At this she said to him; Listen to the words of your slave girl. In turn he said; I am listening. (2 Samuel 20:17)**
- **And she went on to say; Without exception they used to speak in former times, saying; Let them but inquire in Abel, and thus they will certainly end the matter. (2 Samuel 20:18)**

- I represent the peaceable and faithful one's of Israel. You are seeking to put to death a city and a mother in Israel. Why should you swallow up the inheritance of Yehowah? (**2 Samuel 20:19**)
- To this Joab answered and said; It is altogether unthinkable on my part that I should swallow up, and that I should bring to ruin. (**2 Samuel 20:20**)
- The matter is not that way, but a man from the mountainous region of Ephraim, whose name is Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. You people, give him over by himself, and I will withdraw from the city. Then the woman said to Joab; Look! His head will be pitched to you over the wall! (**2 Samuel 20:21**)
- At once the woman went in her wisdom to all the people, and they proceeded to cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and pitch it to Joab. Upon that he blew the horn, and so they were scattered from the city, each one to his home, and Joab himself returned to Jerusalem to the king. (**2 Samuel 20:22**)
- Instigated by Asa of Judah, Syrian Ben-hadad the First, struck down **Abel-beth-maacah** to divert Baasha of Israel from building Ramah.
- Accordingly Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel and went striking down Ijon and Dan and **Abel-beth-maacah** and all Chinnereth, as far as all the land of Naphtali. (**1 Kings 15:20**)
- **Abel of Beth-maacah** was captured by Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria during the reign of Pekah, and its inhabitants were sent into exile.
- In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and **Abel-beth-maacah** and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (**2 Kings 15:29**)
- This city, called in Assyrian texts Abilakka, appears in the inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III in the list of cities he conquered. The surrounding fertile, well-watered fields doubtless gave rise to another

merited name, **Abel-maim**, meaning **Watercourse of Waters**. Its situation made it a good storage place.

- So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel, so that they struck Ijon and Dan and Abel-maim and all the storage places of the cities of Naphtali. (**2 Chronicles 16:4**)

See Also RAMAH 1