

~AHAVA (62)
(A-ha'va)

- The name given to a river or canal located in Babylonia, Northwest of Babylon, where Ezra gathered together certain Jews and held a fast before undertaking the trek to Jerusalem.
- And I proceeded to collect them at the river that comes to **Ahava**, and we kept encamped there three days, that I might scrutinize the people and the priests, but none of the sons of Levi did I find there. (**Ezra 8:15**)
- Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river **Ahava**, to humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him the right way for us and for our little ones and for all our goods. (**Ezra 8:21**)
- Finally we pulled away from the river **Ahava** on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem, and the very hand of our God proved to be over us, so that he delivered us out of the palm of the enemy and the ambush by the way. (**Ezra 8:31**)
- It evidently was a journey of about eight or nine days from Babylon.
- For on the first day of the first month he himself appointed the going up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. (**Ezra 7:9**)
- And I proceeded to collect them at the river that comes to **Ahava**, and we kept encamped there three days, that I might scrutinize the people and the priests, but none of the sons of Levi did I find there. (**Ezra 8:15**)
- Finally we pulled away from the river **Ahava** on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem, and the very hand of our God proved to be over us, so that he delivered us out of the palm of the enemy and the ambush by the way. (**Ezra 8:31**)
- Herodotus (I, 179) speaks of a little river named Is, which flows into the Euphrates, and states that the city of Is on this river is about

eight days journey from Babylon. It has been identified with the modern Hit, and some suggest this as the probable location of **Ahava**.

- Concerning the town of Hit, **The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (1987, Vol. 5, p. 949)** says: **On the Euphrates River, Hit is a small walled town built on two mounds on the site of an ancient city, bitumen wells in the vicinity have been utilized for at least 3,000 years and were used in the building of Babylon. This source of bitumen may correspond to the Biblical account of the construction of the Tower of Babel, in which bitumen served for mortar.**

- And they began to say each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. (**Genesis 11:3**)