

~ANTI-LEBANON (64) (Anti-Leb'a-non)

- The easternmost of the two ranges forming the mountain system of Lebanon. The **Anti-Lebanon** Range parallels the Lebanon Range for about 100 kilometers (60 miles), extending from the plateau of Bashan, East of Dan, up to the great Plain of Emesa, not far from the site of Riblah. Between the two ranges lies a long valley formed by the Orontes and Litani rivers and called Coele-Syria, **Hollow Syria**, or the Beqa`.
- From Mount Halak, which goes up to Seir, and as far as Baal-gad in the valley plain of Lebanon at the base of Mount Hermon, and he captured all their kings and went striking them and putting them to death. (**Joshua 11:17**)
- In the North the ridge is narrow and broken by a series of prominent peaks. The central mass is broader, higher, and rougher, while the southern zone is cut by long torrent valleys that lead off to the East and South. To the East of the main ridge there is a series of descending plateaus that gradually drop to the level of the Plains of Damascus.
- The southern zone includes Mount Hermon, which reaches (2,814 meters) (9,232 feet). The geology of these mountains is similar to that of the Lebanon Range, and they are composed mainly of limestone, having gray cliffs and round gray summits.
- The **Anti-Lebanon** Range is evidently referred to in the Hebrew by the name **Amanah** at;
- With me from Lebanon, O bride, with me from Lebanon may you come. May you descend from the top of **Anti-Lebanon**, from the top of Senir, even Hermon, from the lairs of lions, from the mountains of leopards. (**Song of Solomon 4:8**)
- Where it is mentioned in connection with Mount Hermon. While some have considered **Amanah** to be a particular mountain peak, it appears rather to refer either to the entire **Anti-Lebanon** Range or some part of it. The mountain ranges of Libana and **Ammanana** are mentioned jointly in inscriptions of Assyrian monarchs Tiglath-pileser

III and Sennacherib. The Abanah River, or modern Barada, is also called **Amanah at;**

- **Are not the **Abanah** and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage. (2 Kings 5:12)**
- **In the **Syriac Peshitta** and the Aramaic Targums, and this river, the principal one of Damascus, has its source in the southern part of the **Anti-Lebanon** mountains. Hence the name may refer either to that part of the range or to the range as a whole.**
- **Since the major part of the **Anti-Lebanon** Range is not snowcapped, it has few rivers or streams. Little vegetation grows, but thin forests of dwarf oak and juniper trees are seen on various parts of the slopes. Few cedars remain today. The lower slopes still support vineyards, olive groves, and orchards, as they did in Bible times.**