

~ARAD 2 (60)
(A'rad)

- A city on the southern border of Canaan, whose king attacked Israel as they approached Canaan. The Israelites devoted the district to destruction and called it Hormah, meaning, **A Devoting to Destruction**.
- Now the Canaanite the king of **Arad**, who dwelt in the Negeb, got to hear that Israel had come by the way of Atharim, and he began to fight with Israel and carry away some of them as captives. (**Numbers 21:1**)
- Consequently Israel made a vow to Yehowah and said; If you will without fail give this people into my hand, I shall also certainly devote their cities to destruction. (**Numbers 21:2**)
- So Yehowah listened to Israel's voice and gave the Canaanites over, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. Hence they called the name of the place Hormah. (**Numbers 21:3**)
- Now the Canaanite, the king of **Arad**, as he was dwelling in the Negeb, in the land of Canaan, got to hear about the coming of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 33:40**)
- They did not then settle there, however, and evidently some of the inhabitants escaped destruction. Hence, the king of **Arad** is included in the list of 31 kings later vanquished in Joshua's whirlwind campaign.
- The king of Hormah, one, the king of **Arad**, one. (**Joshua 12:14**)
- The Kenites later settled in the wilderness area to the South of **Arad**.
- And the sons of the Kenite, whose son-in-law Moses was, came up out of the city of palm trees with the sons of Judah to the wilderness of Judah, which is to the south of **Arad**. Then they went and took up dwelling with the people. (**Judges 1:16**)

- Israelite **Arad** is generally identified with **Tel `Arad**, one of the most imposing mounds in the Negeb region. It lies on a somewhat rolling plain about 28 kilometers (17 miles) East of Beer-sheba. Excavations at **Tel `Arad** uncovered some 200 ostraca, about half of them in Hebrew and the rest in Aramaic. One such Hebrew potsherd, said to be from the second half of the **Seventh Century B.C.E**, reads; **To my lord Eliashib; May Yehowah ask for your peace. He dwells in the house of Yehowah.**
- Because of the absence of late Canaanite remains at **Tel `Arad**, **Y. Aharoni** suggests that Canaanite **Arad** was located at **Tell el-Milh, Tel Malhata**, 12 kilometers (7 miles) Southwest of Tel `Arad.
- Ruins of a fortress at **Tel `Arad**. Among the Hebrew ostraca found near here is one that mentions the house of Yehowah.