

~ARAM 5 (404)

(A'ram)

.. Aramaeans Kingdoms

- The name **Aram** is used in a geographic sense, by itself and in conjunction with other terms, to refer to regions in which the descendants of **ARAM NO. 1** were concentrated.
- **Aram**, used alone, basically applies to Syria and is generally so translated.
- And the sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of **Syria** and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the Philistines. So they left Yehowah and did not serve him. (**Judges 10:6**)
- Further, David put garrisons in **Syria** of Damascus, and the Syrians came to be David's servants to carry tribute. And Yehowah continued to save David wherever he went. (**2 Samuel 8:6**)
- From **Syria** and from Moab and from the sons of Ammon and from the Philistines and from Amalek and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob the king of Zobah. (**2 Samuel 8:12**)
- For your servant made a solemn vow when I was dwelling in Geshur in **Syria**, saying; If Yehowah will without fail bring me back to Jerusalem, I must also render service to Yehowah. (**2 Samuel 15:8**)
- And Jacob proceeded to run away to the field of **Syria**, and Israel kept serving for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep. (**Hosea 12:12**)
- It included the region from the Lebanon Mountains across to Mesopotamia and from the Taurus Mountains in the North down to Damascus and beyond in the South.

See Also SYRIA

- ***Aram-naharaim* [Psalms 60:Sup]** is generally translated with the **Greek** word Mesopotamia, which is understood to refer to land between rivers. The two rivers were the Euphrates and the Tigris. Stephen speaks of Abraham as living in Mesopotamia while yet down in Ur of the Chaldeans
- He said; Men, brothers and fathers, hear. The God of glory appeared to our forefather Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he took up residence in **Haran**. (**Acts of Apostles 7:2**)
- And when sending his servant to seek a wife for Isaac many years later, Abraham told him to go to the city of Nahor in Upper Mesopotamia, ***Aram-naharaim***.
- Hence Abraham said to his servant, the oldest one of his household, who was managing all he had; Put your hand, please, under my thigh. (**Genesis 24:2**)
- As I must have you swear by Yehowah, the God of the heavens and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in among whom I am dwelling. (**Genesis 24:3**)
- But you will go to my country and to my relatives, and you will certainly take a wife for my son, for Isaac. (**Genesis 24:4**)
- So the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master and proceeded to go with every sort of good thing of his masters in his hand. Then he rose and got on his way to **Mesopotamia** to the city of Nahor. (**Genesis 24:10**)
- Balaam of Pethor was also from a mountainous region in the northern part of Mesopotamia.
- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. (**Deuteronomy 23:4**)
- Then he took up his proverbial utterance and said; From **Aram** Balak the king of Moab tried to conduct me, from the mountains of the east. Do come, do curse Jacob for me. Yes, do come, do denounce Israel. (**Numbers 23:7**)

See Also MESOPOTAMIA

- **Paddan-aram** is used particularly with reference to the area around the city of **Haran** in Upper Mesopotamia.
- And Isaac happened to be forty years old at his taking Rebekah the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of **Paddanaram**, the sister of Laban the Syrian, as his wife. ([Genesis 25:20](#))
- Get up, go to **Paddanaram** to the house of Bethuel the father of your mother and from there take yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban the brother of your mother. ([Genesis 28:2](#))
- And God Almighty will bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and you will certainly become a congregation of peoples. ([Genesis 28:3](#))
- And he will give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you, that you may take possession of the land of your alien residences, which God has given to Abraham. ([Genesis 28:4](#))
- So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he struck out for **Paddanaram**, for Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau. ([Genesis 28:5](#))
- When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him away to **Paddanaram** to take from there a wife for himself, and that when he blessed him he laid the command upon him, saying, Do not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. ([Genesis 28:6](#))
- And that Jacob was obeying his father and his mother and was on his way to **Paddanaram**. ([Genesis 28:7](#))
- And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to **Haran**. ([Genesis 28:10](#))

See Also PADDAN

- The **Aramaeans**, Semitic descendants of **Aram**, were to be found throughout all these areas. Additionally, the name of Uz, one of **Aram's** four sons, is applied to the area of the Arabian Desert east of the Promised Land and touching on the borders of Edom.

- There happened to be a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man proved to be blameless and upright, and fearing God and turning aside from bad. (**Job 1:1**)
- Exult and rejoice, O daughter of Edom, dwelling as you do in the land of Uz. To you also the cup will pass along. You will become drunk and show yourself in nakedness. (**Lamentations 4:21**)
- **Aramaic**, the language of the **Aramaeans**, was closely related to Hebrew and in time became an international language of both trade and diplomacy throughout the regions of the Fertile Crescent.
- At this Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah and Shebnah and Joah said to Rabshakeh. Speak with your servants, please, in the **Syrian** language, for we can listen, and do not speak with us in the Jews language in the ears of the people that are on the wall. (**2 Kings 18:26**)

See Also ARAMAIC

- It was doubtless due to Jacob's 20-year residence in **Aram** with his **Aramaean** father-in-law Laban that,
- And you must answer and say before Yehowah your God, My father was a perishing **Syrian**, and he proceeded to go down to Egypt and to reside there as an alien with very few in number, but there he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. (**Deuteronomy 26:5**)
- Speaks of him as a **Syrian**, literally, an **Aramaean**. Additionally, Jacob's mother Rebekah was an **Aramaean**, as were his wives Leah and Rachel. The Israelites were therefore closely related indeed to the **Aramaeans**.

•• Aramaean Kingdoms

- **Aramaean** kingdoms begin to be mentioned in the Bible record contemporaneously with the development of the nation of Israel. Cushan-rishathaim, a king from **Aram-naharaim** or **Mesopotamia**, subjugated Israel for eight years until Judge Othniel liberated them.
- At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim the king of

Mesopotamia, and the sons of Israel continued to serve Cushan-rishathaim eight years. (**Judges 3:8**)

- And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. Then Yehowah raised a savior up for the sons of Israel that he might save them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb. (**Judges 3:9**)
- The spirit of Yehowah now came upon him, and he became the judge of Israel. When he went out to battle, then Yehowah gave Cushan-rishathaim the king of Syria into his hand so that his hand overpowered Cushan-rishathaim. (**Judges 3:10**)
- **Aram-Zobah** was an **Aramaean** kingdom referred to as an enemy of Saul's rule, circa 1117-1078 B.C.E.
- And Saul himself took the kingship over Israel and went warring round about against all his enemies, against Moab and against the sons of Ammon and against Edom and against the kings of Zobah and against the Philistines, and wherever he would turn he administered condemnation. (**1 Samuel 14:47**)
- It appears to have been situated to the North of Damascus and exercised dominion North as far as Hamath and East to the Euphrates. When David was fighting Israel's enemies he came into conflict with Hadadezer, powerful king of **Aram-Zobah**, and defeated him. [**Psalms 60:Sup.**]
- And David went on to strike down Hadadezer the son of Rehob the king of Zobah as he was going his way to put his control back again at the river Euphrates. (**2 Samuel 8:3**)
- And David got to capture from him one thousand seven hundred horsemen and twenty thousand men on foot, and David proceeded to hamstring all the chariot horses, but he let a hundred chariot horses of them remain. (**2 Samuel 8:4**)
- And David went on to strike down Hadadezer the king of Zobah at Hamath as he was going his way to set up his control at the river Euphrates. (**1 Chronicles 18:3**)
- Subsequent to this, the **Aramaean** marauder Rezon moved into power at Damascus, and this city soon became the most prominent **Aramaean** city

- And God proceeded to raise up to him another resister, namely, **Rezon** the son of Eliada, who had run away from Hadadezer the king of Zobah his lord. (**1 Kings 11:23**)
- And he kept collecting men to his side and came to be chief of a marauder band, when David killed them. So they went to Damascus and took up dwelling in it and began reigning in Damascus. (**1 Kings 11:24**)
- And he came to be a resister of Israel all the days of Solomon, and that along with the injury that Hadad did, and he had an abhorrence of Israel while he continued reigning over Syria. (**1 Kings 11:25**)
- And the head of Syria.
- For the **head of Syria** is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin, and within just sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered to pieces so as not to be a people. (**Isaiah 7:8**)
- As such it manifested active hostility toward Israel throughout the entire history of the northern kingdom.

See Also DAMASCUS

- **Aram-maacah** is mentioned along with Zobah, Rehob, and Ishtob as among the **Aramaean** kingdoms from which the Ammonites hired chariots and horsemen to war against David. The king of **Aram-maacah** joined these mercenary forces, which David's army soon put to flight.
- In time the sons of Ammon saw that they had become foul-smelling to David, and Hanun and the sons of Ammon proceeded to send a thousand silver talents to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia and from **Aram-maacah** and from Zobah. (**1 Chronicles 19:6**)
- Thus they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots and the king of Maacah and his people. Then they came in and camped before Medeba, and as for the sons of Ammon, they gathered together from their cities and now came in for the war. (**1 Chronicles 19:7**)

- **When David heard of it, he immediately sent Joab and all the army and the mighty men. (1 Chronicles 19:8)**
- **And the sons of Ammon began to go out and draw up in battle formation at the entrance of the city, and the kings that had come were by themselves in the open field. (1 Chronicles 19:9)**
- **When Joab saw that the battle charges had come to be against him from the front and from the rear, he at once chose some of all the choice men in Israel and drew them up in formation to meet the Syrians. (1 Chronicles 19:10)**
- **And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of Abishai his brother, that they might draw up in formation to meet the sons of Ammon. (1 Chronicles 19:11)**
- **And he went on to say; If the Syrians become too strong for me, you must also serve as a salvation for me, but if the sons of Ammon themselves become too strong for you, I must also save you. (1 Chronicles 19:12)**
- **Be strong, that we may show ourselves courageous in behalf of our people and in behalf of the cities of our God, and as for Yehowah, what is good in his own eyes he will do. (1 Chronicles 19:13)**
- **Then Joab and the people that were with him advanced before the Syrians to the battle, and they took to flight from before him. (1 Chronicles 19:14)**
- **As for the sons of Ammon, they saw that the Syrians had fled, and they themselves also took to flight from before Abishai his brother and then came into the city. Later Joab came into Jerusalem. (1 Chronicles 19:15)**
- **In time the sons of Ammon saw that they had become foul-smelling to David, and the sons of Ammon proceeded to send and hire Syrians of Beth-rehob and Syrians of Zobah, twenty thousand men on foot, and the king of Maacah, a thousand men, and Ishtob, twelve thousand men. (2 Samuel 10:6)**
- **When David heard of it, then he sent Joab and all the army and the mighty men. (2 Samuel 10:7)**

- **And the sons of Ammon began to go out and draw up in battle formation at the entrance of the gate, also the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob, and Ishtob and Maacah by themselves in the open field. (2 Samuel 10:8)**
- **When Joab saw that the battle charges had come to be against him from the front and from the rear, he at once chose some of all the choice men in Israel and drew them up in formation to meet the Syrians. (2 Samuel 10:9)**
- **And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might draw them up in formation to meet the sons of Ammon. (2 Samuel 10:10)**
- **And he went on to say; If the Syrians become too strong for me, then you must serve as a salvation for me, but if the sons of Ammon themselves become too strong for you, I must also come to save you. (2 Samuel 10:11)**
- **Be strong, that we may show ourselves courageous in behalf of our people and in behalf of the cities of our God, and as for Yehowah, he will do what is good in his own eyes. (2 Samuel 10:12)**
- **Then Joab and the people that were with him advanced to the battle against the Syrians, and they went fleeing from before him. (2 Samuel 10:13)**
- **As for the sons of Ammon, they saw that the Syrians had fled, and they took to flight from before Abishai and hence came into the city. After that Joab returned from the sons of Ammon and came to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 10:14)**
- **The kingdom of Maacah probably lay East of the Jordan, with Mount Hermon on its North side.**
- **And who ruled in Mount Hermon and in Salecah and in all Bashan, as far as the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and half of Gilead, to the territory of Sihon the king of Heshbon. (Joshua 12:5)**
- **And Gilead and the territory of the Geshurites and the Maacathites and all of Mount Hermon and all Bashan as far as Salecah. (Joshua 13:11)**

- **Geshur** was a small **Aramaeans** kingdom to the East of the Jordan and evidently just below Maacah, with its South boundaries extending down to the East side of the Sea of Galilee. Like Maacah, it lay within the territory assigned to the tribe of Manasseh.
- Jair the son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob as far as the boundary of the **Geshurites** and the Maacathites, and he proceeded to call those villages of Bashan by his own name, Havvoth-jair, to this day. (**Deuteronomy 3:14**)
- And Gilead and the territory of the **Geshurites** and the Maacathites and all of Mount Hermon and all Bashan as far as Salecah. (**Joshua 13:11**)

See Also GESHUR 1

- By David's conquest of **Aramaeans** kingdoms he extended the boundaries of his kingdom far to the North so that it reached to the Euphrates River, not far from Haran of Paddan-aram. He thus fulfilled Yehowah's promise concerning the extent of Israel's inheritance in the Promised Land.
- Turn and set out on your way and go into the mountainous region of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, the mountainous region and the Shephelah and the Negeb and the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, up to the great river, the river Euphrates. (**Deuteronomy 1:7**)
- Every place on which the sole of your foot will tread will become yours. From the wilderness up to Lebanon, from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea your boundary will become. (**Deuteronomy 11:24**)
- From the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river, the river Euphrates, that is, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun your territory will prove to be. (**Joshua 1:4**)
- For further information concerning Israel's relations with **Aram**.

See Also SYRIA