

~ARNON, TORRENT VALLEY OF (316) **(Ar'non)**

- About halfway down the eastern side of the Dead Sea the deep gorge of the **Arnon Valley** cuts through the high plateau region. This torrent, the **Wadi Mujib**, **Nahal Arnon**, is fed by numerous tributaries
- That is why it is said in the book of the Wars of Yehowah. Vaheb in Suphah and the torrent valleys of **Arnon**. (**Numbers 21:14**)
- And, after the Jordan, is the only important stream emptying into the Dead Sea. The sheer red and yellow sandstone cliffs drop down abruptly to flank the sides of the narrow valley with its small perennial stream of limpid waters, replete with fish.
- Alongside grow willows, oleanders, and other vegetation in abundance. Where the stream leaves the steep chasm walls to enter the flat shore of the Dead Sea its size varies from 12 to 30 meters (40 to 100 feet) in width, with a flow of from 0.3 to 1.2 meters (1 to 4 feet) in depth.
- The formidable canyon, which, at the top, measures some 3 kilometers (2 miles) in width and is nearly 520 meters (1,700 feet) deep, was crossed by only a few passages.
- And it must occur that like a fleeing winged creature, chased away from its nest, the daughters of Moab will become at the fords of Arnon. (**Isaiah 16:2**)
- And hence became an obvious natural boundary. At the time of the Israelite conquest it separated the Amorites on the North from the Moabites on the South.
- From there they pulled away and went camping in the region of the **Arnon**, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the **Arnon** is the boundary of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. (**Numbers 21:13**)
- But Jephthah's message to the Ammonites shows that the side to the North had once been under Ammonite control and had been invaded by the Amorites prior to Israel's arrival.

- **Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying; What do I have to do with you, seeing that you have come against me to fight in my land? (Judges 11:12)**
- **So the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah; It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the **Arnon** as far as the Jabbok and as far as the Jordan. And now do return it peacefully. (Judges 11:13)**
- **But Jephthah sent once more messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon (Judges 11:14)**
- **And said to him; This is what Jephthah has said; Israel did not take the land of Moab and the land of the sons of Ammon. (Judges 11:15)**
- **For when they came up out of Egypt Israel went walking through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and got to come to Kadesh. (Judges 11:16)**
- **Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying; Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not listen. And also to the king of Moab they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. (Judges 11:17)**
- **When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, so that they went toward the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of Moab, because Arnon was the boundary of Moab. (Judges 11:18)**
- **After that Israel sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him; Let us pass, please, through your land to my own place. (Judges 11:19)**
- **And Sihon did not feel sure about Israel's crossing through his territory, and Sihon went gathering all his people together and camping in Jahaz and fighting against Israel. (Judges 11:20)**
- **At this Yehowah the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they struck them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites inhabiting that land. (Judges 11:21)**

- **Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (Judges 11:22)**
- **And now Yehowah the God of Israel it was that dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and you, for your part, would dispossess them. (Judges 11:23)**
- **Is it not whomever Chemosh your god causes you to dispossess that you will dispossess? And every one whom Yehowah our God has dispossessed from before us is the one we shall dispossess. (Judges 11:24)**
- **And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? (Judges 11:25)**
- **While Israel was dwelling in Heshbon and its dependent towns and in Aroer and its dependent towns and in all the cities that are by the banks of Arnon for three hundred years, why, then, did you never snatch them away during that time? (Judges 11:26)**
- **As for me, I have not sinned against you, but you are dealing wrong with me by fighting against me. Let Yehowah the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon. (Judges 11:27)**
- **Israel, having skirted the territory of Moab, reached the **Arnon**, probably at its upper reaches. Attacked by Sihon, the Amorite king, Israel gained the victory and took possession of the land from the **Arnon** up to the Jabbok.**
- **Israel now sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, saying; (Numbers 21:21)**
- **Let me pass through your land. We shall not turn off into a field or a vineyard. We shall drink water of no well. On the kings road we shall march until we pass through your territory. (Numbers 21:22)**
- **And Sihon did not allow Israel to pass through his territory, but Sihon gathered all his people and went out to meet Israel in the wilderness, and came to Jahaz and began fighting with Israel.**

(Numbers 21:23)

- At that Israel struck him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the **Arnon** to the Jabbok, near the sons of Ammon, because Jazer is the border of the sons of Ammon. **(Numbers 21:24)**
- Get up, pull away and cross the torrent valley of **Arnon**. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the king of Heshbon, the Amorite. So start to take possession of his land, and engage in war with him. **(Deuteronomy 2:24)**
- This day I shall start to put the dread of you and the fear of you before the peoples beneath all the heavens, who will hear the report about you, and they will indeed be agitated and have pains like those of childbirth because of you. **(Deuteronomy 2:25)**
- Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying; **(Deuteronomy 2:26)**
- Let me pass through your land. Only on the road I shall walk. I shall not turn to the right or to the left. **(Deuteronomy 2:27)**
- What food you will sell me for money, I must eat. And what water you will give me for money, I must drink. Only let me pass through on my feet. **(Deuteronomy 2:28)**
- Just the same as the sons of Esau dwelling in Seir and the Moabites dwelling in Ar did to me, until I shall pass over the Jordan into the land that Yehowah our God is giving to us. **(Deuteronomy 2:29)**
- And Sihon the king of Heshbon did not let us pass through him, because Yehowah your God had let his spirit become obstinate and his heart become hard, in order to give him into your hand just as at this day. **(Deuteronomy 2:30)**
- At this Yehowah said to me, See, I have started to abandon Sihon and his land to you. Start to take possession of his land. **(Deuteronomy 2:31)**
- When Sihon came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Jahaz. **(Deuteronomy 2:32)**

- Then Yehowah our God abandoned him to us, so that we defeated him and his sons and all his people. (**Deuteronomy 2:33**)
- And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time and devoting every city to destruction, men and women and little children. We left no survivor. (**Deuteronomy 2:34**)
- Only the domestic animals did we take as plunder for ourselves, together with the spoil of the cities that we had captured. (**Deuteronomy 2:35**)
- From Aroer, which is by the bank of the torrent valley of **Arnon**, and the city that is in the torrent valley, as far as Gilead, there proved to be no town that was too high up for us. Yehowah our God abandoned them all to us. (**Deuteronomy 2:36**)
- This first conquest thereafter became the territory of the tribes of Reuben and Gad.
- And to the Reubenites and the Gadites I have given from Gilead to the torrent valley of **Arnon**, the middle of the torrent valley being a boundary, and as far as Jabbok, the torrent valley that is the boundary of the sons of Ammon. (**Deuteronomy 3:16**)
- Now these are the kings of the land whom the sons of Israel defeated and whose land they then took possession of on the side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the torrent valley of Arnon up to Mount Hermon and all the Arabah toward the sunrise. (**Joshua 12:1**)
- Sihon the king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, ruling from Aroer, which was on the bank of the torrent valley of **Arnon**, and the middle of the torrent valley, and half of Gilead as far as Jabbok the torrent valley, the boundary of the sons of Ammon. (**Joshua 12:2**)
- With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites took their inheritance that Moses gave them on the side of the Jordan toward the east, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had given them. (**Joshua 13:8**)
- From Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of **Arnon**,

and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland of Medeba as far as Dibon. ([Joshua 13:9](#))

- Then Moses made a gift to the tribe of the sons of Reuben by their families. ([Joshua 13:15](#))
- And the territory came to be theirs from Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of **Arnon**, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland by Medeba. ([Joshua 13:16](#))
- Heshbon and all its towns that are on the tableland, Dibon and Bamoth-baal and Beth-baal-meon. ([Joshua 13:17](#))
- And Jahaz and Kedemoth and Mephaath. ([Joshua 13:18](#))
- And Kiriathaim and Sibmah and Zereth-shahar in the mountain of the low plain. ([Joshua 13:19](#))
- And Beth-peor and the slopes of Pisgah and Beth-jeshimoth. ([Joshua 13:20](#))
- And all the cities of the tableland and all the royal realm of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, and whom Moses struck, together with the chieftains of Midian, Evi and Rekem and Zur and Hur and Reba, the dukes of Sihon, who were dwelling in the land. ([Joshua 13:21](#))
- And Balaam the son of Beor, the diviner, was one whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword along with their slain ones. ([Joshua 13:22](#))
- And the boundary of the sons of Reuben came to be the Jordan, and this as a territory was the inheritance of the sons of Reuben by their families, with the cities and their settlements. ([Joshua 13:23](#))
- Furthermore, Moses made a gift to the tribe of Gad, the sons of Gad by their families. ([Joshua 13:24](#))
- And their territory came to be Jazer and all the cities of Gilead and half of the land of the sons of Ammon as far as Aroer, which is in front of Rabbah. ([Joshua 13:25](#))

- And from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir. ([Joshua 13:26](#))
- And in the low plain Beth-haram and Beth-nimrah and Succoth and Zaphon, the rest of the royal realm of Sihon the king of Heshbon, the Jordan being the border as far as the extremity of the sea of Chinnereth on the side of Jordan toward the east. ([Joshua 13:27](#))
- This was the inheritance of the sons of Gad by their families, with the cities and their settlements. ([Joshua 13:28](#))

See Also JABBOK, TORRENT VALLEY OF

- Because of Jehu's failure to walk strictly according to Yehowah's law, this region was later overrun by the invading forces of Hazael of Syria.
- In those days Yehowah started to cut off Israel piece by piece, and Hazael kept striking them in all the territory of Israel. ([2 Kings 10:32](#))
- From the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites and the Reubenites and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the torrent valley of **Arnon**, even Gilead and Bashan. ([2 Kings 10:33](#))
- The **Arnon** is referred to on line 26 of the famed Moabite Stone, King Mesha of Moab there boasting that he had constructed a highway through the valley. Archaeological discoveries give evidence of a number of forts and bridges in the area testifying to the strategic importance of the **Arnon**. Its name figures in prophecies directed against Moab.
- And it must occur that like a fleeing winged creature, chased away from its nest, the daughters of Moab will become at the fords of **Arnon**. ([Isaiah 16:2](#))
- Moab has been put to shame, for she has been struck with terror. Howl and cry out. Tell in **Arnon**, O men, that Moab has been despoiled. ([Jeremiah 48:20](#))