

~AROER 1 (168)

(A-ro'er) [Juniper Tree]

- A city located on the North rim of the deep gorge forming the torrent valley of the Arnon. At the time of the conquest by Israel **circa 1474 B.C.E**, it was the southernmost city of the Amorite kingdom.
- 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**)
- And they went taking possession of his land and of the land of Og the king of Bashan, the two kings of the Amorites who were in the region of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun. (**Deuteronomy 4:47**)
- From **Aroer**, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, up to Mount Sion, that is to say; Hermon. (**Deuteronomy 4:48**)
- 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**)
- Thereafter it passed to the tribe of Reuben, although the tribe of Gad is mentioned as building, probably, repairing the city.
- At this Moses gave to them, that is, to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon the king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og the king of Bashan, the land belonging to its cities in the territories, and the cities of the land round about. (**Numbers 32:33**)
- And the sons of Gad proceeded to build Dibon and Ataroth and **Aroer**. (**Numbers 32:34**)
- And we took possession of this land at that particular time, from **Aroer**, which is by the torrent valley of Arnon, and half of the mountainous region of Gilead, and its cities I have given to the

Reubenites and the Gadites. (Deuteronomy 3:12)

- **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)**
- **And Bela the son of Azaz the son of Shema the son of Joel, he was dwelling in Aroer and as far as Nebo and Baal-meon. (1 Chronicles 5:8)**
- **It marked the southern boundary of Israel East of the Jordan and so corresponded to Beer-sheba, a major southern city West of the Jordan.**
- **After some 300 years of Israelite occupation, the Ammonites pressed a claim for the region lying between the Arnon and the Jabbok, but Judge Jephthah refuted their claim by showing that Israel had taken the land, including Aroer, from the Amorites.**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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](#))

- This city of **Aroer** appears to have been the starting point for the census ordered by King David, which thereafter swung North to Dan-jaan and looped over to Tyre and Sidon and then South to Beer-sheba in the Negeb.
- Finally the king's word prevailed upon Joab and the chiefs of the military forces. So Joab and the chiefs of the military forces went out from before the king to register the people Israel. ([2 Samuel 24:4](#))
- Then they crossed the Jordan and took up camping at **Aroer** to the right of the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, toward the Gadites, and to Jazer. ([2 Samuel 24:5](#))
- After that they came on to Gilead and the land of Tahtim-hodshi and continued on to Dan-jaan and went around to Sidon. ([2 Samuel 24:6](#))
- Then they came to the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and of the Canaanites and came to the terminating point in the Negeb of Judah at Beer-sheba. ([2 Samuel 24:7](#))
- Thus they went moving about through all the land and came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. ([2 Samuel 24:8](#))
- The mention of the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley coincides with similar references at;
 - 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](#))
 - 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](#))
 - 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](#))

- This unnamed city is considered by some to correspond to **Khirbet el-Medeiyineh**, about 11 kilometers (7 miles) Southeast of **Aroer**.
- During the reign of King Jehu of Israel, **circa 904-877 B.C.E**, King Hazael of Syria overran the territories of Gad and Reuben, as far South as **Aroer** on the Arnon.
- 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**)
- Perhaps during this time, Moabite King Mesha fortified the city and built his road by the Arnon, as related on line 26 of the Moabite Stone. At the time of Jeremiah's prophecy against Moab the city was under Moabite control.
- Stand still and look out for the way itself, O inhabitress of **Aroer**. Ask him that is fleeing and her that is making her escape. Say; What has been brought about? (**Jeremiah 48:19**)
- The site of the ancient city is identified with **Khirbet `Ara`ir**, about 23 kilometers (14 miles) East of the Dead Sea, about 6 kilometers (3.5 miles) South-Southeast of Dibon, and close by the Kings Highway, the main North-South route on that side of the Jordan. The ruins contain evidences of an ancient fortress, which, from its vantage point on the edge of the impressive gorge, could likely control the passages over the Arnon.