

~ATAD (76)

(A'tad) [Bramble]

- A place of uncertain location in the region of the Jordan was called **the threshing floor of Atad**. There Jacob's funeral cortege stopped for seven days of mourning while en route from Egypt to the cave of the field of Machpelah in Canaan.
- **Atad** may have been a person, but the name itself appears to designate a location. The funeral party included Pharaoh's servants as well as the older men of Egypt, and when the Canaanites saw the mourning rites, they exclaimed; This is a heavy mourning for the Egyptians! Hence, the place was called **Abel-mizraim**, meaning **Mourning of the Egyptians**.
- So Joseph went up to bury his father, and there went up with him all of Pharaoh's servants, the older men of his household and all the older men of the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 50:7**)
- And all of Joseph's household and his brothers and the household of his father. Only their little children and their flocks and their herds they left in the land of Goshen. (**Genesis 50:8**)
- There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and the camp came to be very numerous. (**Genesis 50:9**)
- Then they came to the threshing floor of **Atad**, which is in the region of the Jordan, and there they carried on a very great and heavy wailing and he kept up the mourning rites for his father seven days. (**Genesis 50:10**)
- And the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, got to see the mourning rites in the threshing floor of **Atad**, and they exclaimed: This is a heavy mourning for the Egyptians! That is why its name was called **Abelmizraim**, which is in the region of the Jordan. (**Genesis 50:11**)
- And his sons proceeded to do for him exactly as he had commanded them. (**Genesis 50:12**)
- So his sons carried him into the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, the field that Abraham had

purchased for the possession of a burial place from Ephron the Hittite in front of Mamre. (**Genesis 50:13**)

- Various translations, for example, **AS**, **AT**, **RS**, use **beyond the Jordan** at;
- Then they came to the threshing floor of **Atad**, which is in the **region of the Jordan**, and there they carried on a very great and heavy wailing and he kept up the mourning rites for his father seven days. (**Genesis 50:10**)
- And the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, got to see the mourning rites in the threshing floor of **Atad**, and they exclaimed, This is a heavy mourning for the Egyptians! That is why its name was called **Abelmizraim**, which is in the **region of the Jordan**. (**Genesis 50:11**)
- And some conclude that the threshing floor of **Atad** was situated East of the Jordan River. This would mean that the procession took, not a direct, but a circuitous route, around the Dead Sea, which it could have done in order to avoid contact with the Philistines.
- However, the Hebrew expression *be`e'ver*, translated beyond, **can refer to a region either East or West of the Jordan**. From Moses viewpoint in the land of Moab at the time of the completion of the Pentateuch, **beyond the Jordan** could mean West of the river. Yet, all difficulties are overcome by the **New World Translation**, which accurately renders the **Hebrew** text **in the region of the Jordan** in these verses.