

~ATROTH-BETH-JOAB (63)

(At'roth-beth-jo'ab) [Crowns, that is, circular enclosures of the House of Joab]

- A name appearing among the sons of Salma in the genealogy of the tribe of Judah.
- The sons of Salma were Bethlehem and the Netophathites, **Atroth-beth-joab** and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites. (**1 Chronicles 2:54**)
- Some consider this to be the name of a town in Judah, pointing to the inclusion of such names as Kiriath-jearim, Beth-gader, Bethlehem, and others in these genealogies. However, the mere correspondence of a name with that of a town is not a certain indication that the town is referred to, since there are numerous instances of persons and towns bearing the same name.
- Nevertheless, the form or meaning of certain names in the genealogies does seem to be of a geographic nature rather than a personal one. The solution may rest in the view held by many scholars that it is more precisely to the **inhabitants** of the town that reference is made, rather than to the geographic site itself.
- Thus, the expression father of in certain occurrences is understood to mean the founder of or chief settler of the particular population dwelling in the place indicated.
- It may be noted that the word father appears in the original Hebrew at;
- In time Adah gave birth to Jabal. He proved to be the **founder** of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. (**Genesis 4:20**)
- And the name of his brother was Jubal. He proved to be the **founder** of all those who handle the harp and the pipe. (**Genesis 4:21**)
- But in some translations is rendered **ancestor** (**AT, JB**) or **founder** (**NW**). Hebrew lexicons include among the possible meanings of the Hebrew term **father** that of **ruler, chief**. [A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, by Brown, Driver, and Briggs, 1980, p. 3]

- **Forefather, ancestor of tribe, nation, of a place, founder of a class or station, of a trade, founder, chief magistrate of a place. [Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros, by L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, Leiden, 1958, p. 1]**

- **And it must occur in that day that I will call my servant, namely, Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah. (Isaiah 22:20]**

- **And I will clothe him with your robe, and your sash I shall firmly bind about him, and your dominion I shall give into his hand, and he must become a **father** to the inhabitant of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (Isaiah 22:21)**

- **And I will put the key of the house of David upon his shoulder, and he must open without anyone's shutting, and he must shut without anyone's opening. (Isaiah 22:22)**