

## **~BAAL-PERAZIM (119)**

### **(Ba'al-pe-ra'zim) [Owner of Breakings Through]**

- The site of a complete victory by King David over the combined forces of the Philistines, sometime after David's conquest of the stronghold of Zion.
- And David took up dwelling in the stronghold, and it came to be called the City of David. And David began to build all around from the Mound and inward. (2 Samuel 5:9)
- And the Philistines got to hear that they had anointed David as king over Israel. At that all the Philistines came up to look for David. When David heard of it, then he went down to the place hard to approach. (2 Samuel 5:17)
- And the Philistines, for their part, came in and kept tramping about in the low plain of Rephaim. (2 Samuel 5:18)
- And David began to inquire of Yehowah, saying; Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand? At this Yehowah said to David; Go up, for I shall without fail give the Philistines into your hands. (2 Samuel 5:19)
- So David came to **Baal-perazim**, and David got to strike them down there. At that he said; Yehowah has broken through my enemies ahead of me, like a gap made by waters. That is why he called the name of that place **Baal-perazim**. (2 Samuel 5:20)
- Consequently they left their idols there, and so David and his men took them away. (2 Samuel 5:21)
- The record states that, upon hearing of the Philistines aggressive approach, David and his men went down to the place hard to approach, while the Philistines were tramping about in the low plain of Rephaim.
- Receiving assurance from Yehowah of his support, David attacked, and the Philistines fled, leaving their idols behind. Attributing the victory to Yehowah, David said; Yehowah has broken through my enemies ahead of me, like a gap made by waters, and for this reason he called the name of that place **Baal-perazim**. The account at

- Consequently they left their idols there, and so David and his men took them away. (**2 Samuel 5:21**)
- Says that David and his men took the Philistines abandoned idols away. The parallel account at;
- Consequently they left their gods there. Then David said the word, and so they were burned in the fire. (**1 Chronicles 14:12**)
- Shows the final action taken, stating: Then David said the word, and so they the idols were burned in the fire.
- Mount **Perazim** referred to by;
- For Yehowah will rise up just as at **Mount Perazim**, he will be agitated just as in the low plain near Gibeon, that he may do his deed, his deed is strange, and that he may work his work, his work is unusual. (**Isaiah 28:21**)
- Is considered to be the same location. Its use in his prophecy recalls Yehowah's victory through David at **Baal-perazim**, cited as an example of the strange deed due to be effected, in which, Yehowah declares, he will break in upon his enemies like an overflowing flash flood.
- The Low Plain of Rephaim is considered to be the Plain of the Baqa` to the Southwest of the Temple Mount, which, after sloping downward for about 1.5 kilometers (1 miles), contracts into a narrow valley, the **Wadi el Werd**, **Nahal Refa'im**.
- On this basis, some scholars suggest **Baal-perazim** to be a site in the vicinity of this valley. However, on the basis of the parallel with the low plain near Gibeon drawn by;
- For Yehowah will rise up just as at Mount Perazim, he will be agitated just as in the low plain near Gibeon, that he may do his deed, his deed is strange, and that he may work his work, his work is unusual. (**Isaiah 28:21**)
- Some scholars suggest a site to the Northwest, possibly Sheikh Bedr, about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) West-Northwest of the Temple Mount.

- **And the boundary went up to the valley of the son of Hinnom to the slope of the Jebusite at the south, that is to say, Jerusalem. And the boundary went up to the top of the mountain that faces the valley of Hinnom to the west, which is at the extremity of the low plain of Rephaim to the north. (Joshua 15:8)**
- **And the boundary was marked out from the top of the mountain to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of Mount Ephron, and the boundary was marked out to Baalah, that is to say, Kiriath-jearim. (Joshua 15:9)**
- **This would be in harmony with the fact that the escape route of the Philistines who were pursued by David was in the direction of Gibeon and Gezer.**
- **Later the Philistines came up once again and tramped about in the low plain of Rephaim. (2 Samuel 5:22)**
- **Accordingly David did that way, just as Yehowah had commanded him, and he went striking down the Philistines from Geba to as far as Gezer. (2 Samuel 5:25)**
- **So David did just as the true God had commanded him, and they went striking down the camp of the Philistines from Gibeon to Gezer. (1 Chronicles 14:16)**