

~BETH-HORON (248)
(Beth-ho'ron)

- Two towns, Upper and Lower **Beth-horon**, were strategically situated on the ancient route leading from Joppa and the maritime plain up the Valley of Aijalon to Bethel or to Gibeon and Jerusalem.
- Today the sites are occupied by two modern villages, the upper: **Beit `Ur el Fauqa**, **Bet Horon `Elyon**, and the lower; **Beit `Ur et Tahta**, **Bet Horon Tahton**. Upper **Beth-horon** thus lies about 16 kilometers (10 miles) Northwest of Jerusalem, with **Lower Beth-horon** 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) West-Northwest of **Upper Beth-horon**, both sites occupying hilltops.
- The building or founding of these places is credited originally to Sheerah, a daughter or granddaughter of Ephraim.
- And Ephraim their father carried on mourning for many days, and his brothers kept coming in to comfort him. (**1 Chronicles 7:22**)
- And his daughter was Sheerah, and she got to build **Beth-horon**, the lower and the upper, and Uzzen-sheerah. (**1 Chronicles 7:24**)
- And there was Rephah his son, and Resheph, and Telah his son, and Tahan his son. (**1 Chronicles 7:25**)
- The towns formed part of the southern boundary of the tribe of Ephraim
- And it went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites as far as the boundary of Lower **Beth-horon** and Gezer, and its termination proved to be at the sea. (**Joshua 16:3**)
- And the boundary of the sons of Ephraim by their families came to be, yes, the boundary of their inheritance toward the east came to be Ataroth-addar, as far as Upper **Beth-horon**. (**Joshua 16:5**)
- While the boundary of the tribe of Benjamin is stated to have come to the mountain that is on the south of **Lower Beth-horon**.
- And the boundary passed over from there to Luz, at the southern

- slope of Luz, that is to say; Bethel, and the boundary went down to Ataroth-addar upon the mountain that is on the south of **Lower Beth-horon**. (Joshua 18:13)
- And the boundary was marked out and went around at the western side to the south from the mountain that faces **Beth-horon** to the south, and its termination proved to be at Kiriath-baal, that is to say; Kiriath-jearim, a city of the sons of Judah. This is the western side. (Joshua 18:14)
 - This appears to place both towns fittingly as within the inheritance of Ephraim. **Beth-horon**, perhaps just one of the towns, thereafter was given to the Levites of the sons of Kohath.
 - And for the families of the sons of Kohath, the Levites who were left over of the sons of Kohath, there came to be by their lot cities out of the tribe of Ephraim. (Joshua 21:20)
 - And Kibzaim and its pasture ground, and **Beth-horon** and its pasture ground, four cities. (Joshua 21:22)
 - And Jokmeam with its pasture grounds and **Beth-horon** with its pasture grounds. (1 Chronicles 6:68)
 - Situated as they were on a principal route from the maritime plain up into the hill country, these towns frequently saw the passing of warring forces. At the time of the Israelite conquest, Joshua defeated five Amorite kings who had combined to war against Gibeon, pursuing them by way of the ascent of **Beth-horon**.
 - Here Yehowah caused great hailstones to strike down many of the Amorites as they fled along **the descent of Beth-horon**.
 - Upon that the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying; Do not let your hand relax from your slaves. Come up to us quickly and do save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites inhabiting the mountainous region have collected together against us. (Joshua 10:6)
 - So Joshua went on up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant mighty men. (Joshua 10:7)
 - Then Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid of them, for into your hand I have given them. Not a man of them will stand

against you. (**Joshua 10:8**)

- And Joshua proceeded to come against them by surprise. All night long he had gone up from Gilgal. (**Joshua 10:9**)
- And Yehowah went throwing them into confusion before Israel, and they began to slay them with a great slaughter at Gibeon and went pursuing them by way of the **ascent of Bethhoron** and slaying them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. (**Joshua 10:10**)
- And it came about that while they were fleeing from before Israel and were on the **descent of Beth-horon**, Yehowah hurled great stones from the heavens upon them as far as Azekah, so that they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. (**Joshua 10:11**)
- It was then that Joshua proceeded to speak to Yehowah on the day of Yehowah's abandoning the Amorites to the sons of Israel, and he went on to say before the eyes of Israel; Sun, be motionless over Gibeon, and, moon, over the low plain of Aijalon. (**Joshua 10:12**)
- The descent of **Beth-horon** is considered by some to refer to the descent from **Upper Beth-horon** to **Lower Beth-horon**, there being a difference of about 240 meters (800 feet) in altitude between the two places.
- Later, during King Saul's reign, the road of **Beth-horon** was one of three routes used by pillaging bands of Philistines making raids from Michmash.
- And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people yet found with them were dwelling in Geba of Benjamin. As for the Philistines, they had encamped in Michmash. (**1 Samuel 13:16**)
- And the force of pillagers would sally forth from the camp of the Philistines in three bands. The one band would turn to the road to Ophrah, to the land of Shual. (**1 Samuel 13:17**)
- And the other band would turn to the road of **Beth-horon**, and the third band would turn to the road to the boundary that looks toward the valley of Zeboim, toward the wilderness. (**1 Samuel 13:18**)

- King Solomon built or fortified both towns, strengthening them with walls, doors, and bar, doubtless considering that they served as a block to invading forces from Egypt or Philistia.
- And he went on to build Upper **Beth-horon** and Lower Beth-horon, fortified cities with walls, doors and bar. (**2 Chronicles 8:5**)
- Shishak of Egypt, who invaded Judah during Rehoboam's reign, listed **Beth-horon** as one of the towns claimed as conquered or under his domination.
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. (**1 Kings 14:25**)
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, for they had behaved unfaithfully toward Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 12:2**)
- With twelve hundred chariots and with sixty thousand horsemen, and there was no number to the people that came with him out of Egypt, Libyans, Sukkiim and Ethiopians. (**2 Chronicles 12:3**)
- And he got to capture the fortified cities that belonged to Judah and finally came as far as Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 12:4**)
- Now as for Shemaiah the prophet, he came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered themselves at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he proceeded to say to them; This is what Yehowah has said; You, for your part, have left me, and I, too, for my part, have left you to the hand of Shishak. (**2 Chronicles 12:5**)
- At that the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, Yehowah is righteous. (**2 Chronicles 12:6**)
- And when Yehowah saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of Yehowah came to Shemaiah, saying; They have humbled themselves. I shall not bring them to ruin, and in a little while I shall certainly give them an escape, and my rage will not pour forth upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. (**2 Chronicles 12:7**)

- But they will become servants of his, that they may know the difference between my service and the service of the kingdoms of the lands. (2 Chronicles 12:8)
- So Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and took the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house. Everything he took, and so he took the gold shields that Solomon had made. (2 Chronicles 12:9)
- When King Amaziah of Judah dismissed Ephraimite mercenary troops before engaging in battle with the Edomites, these soldiers from the northern kingdom with its capital in Samaria expressed their hot anger over their dismissal by raiding Judean cities as far as Beth-horon.
- And Amaziah proceeded to collect Judah together and to have them stand according to the house of the forefathers, by the chiefs of thousands and by the chiefs of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin, and he went on to register them from twenty years of age upward, and finally he found them to be three hundred thousand choice men going out to the army, handling lance and large shield. (2 Chronicles 25:5)
- Further, he hired from Israel a hundred thousand valiant, mighty men for a hundred silver talents. (2 Chronicles 25:6)
- And a certain man of the true God came to him, saying; O king, do not let the army of Israel come with you, for Yehowah is not with Israel, that is, all the sons of Ephraim. (2 Chronicles 25:7)
- But come you yourself, act, be courageous for the war. The true God could cause you to stumble before an enemy, for there exists power with God to help and to cause stumbling. (2 Chronicles 25:8)
- At this Amaziah said to the man of the true God; But what is there to do about the hundred talents that I have given to the troops of Israel? To this the man of the true God said; There exists with Yehowah the means to give you much more than this. (2 Chronicles 25:9)
- Accordingly Amaziah separated them, namely, the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go to their own place. However, their anger got very hot against Judah, so that they

returned to their own place in the heat of anger. (**2 Chronicles 25:10**)

- And Amaziah, for his part, took courage and proceeded to lead his own people and go to the Valley of Salt, and he went striking down the sons of Seir, ten thousand of them. (**2 Chronicles 25:11**)
- And there were ten thousand that the sons of Judah captured alive. So they brought them to the top of the crag, and proceeded to throw them from the top of the crag, and they, one and all, burst apart. (**2 Chronicles 25:12**)
- As for the members of the troop whom Amaziah had sent back from going with him to the war, they began making raids upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria clear to **Beth-horon**, and went striking down three thousand of them and taking a great plunder. (**2 Chronicles 25:13**)