

~BETH-JESHIMOTH (190)

(Beth-jesh'i-moth) [House of the Desolations]

- The southernmost point to which the encampment of the Israelites reached as they camped on the Plains of Moab before crossing the Jordan into Canaan.
- Finally they pulled away from the mountains of Abarim and took up camping on the desert plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho. (**Numbers 33:48**)
- And they continued camping by the Jordan from **Beth-jeshimoth** to Abel-shittim on the desert plains of Moab. (**Numbers 33:49**)
- The camp reached from **Beth-jeshimoth** to Abel-shittim, a distance of about 8 kilometers (5 miles) according to the suggested sites for these places. **Beth-jeshimoth** is presently identified with **Tell el-`Azeimeh** near the Northeast corner of the Dead Sea and 19 kilometers (12 miles) Southeast of Jericho.
- Nearby is **Khirbet Sweimeh**, which, as a Roman settlement, was known by the **Greek** name of *Besimoth*. A strong spring is also found in the vicinity. **Tell el-`Azeimeh** is situated on a platform of land overlooking the plains below, and it is in position to guard the exit from one of the torrent valleys leading down from the mountains to the East.
- **Beth-jeshimoth** formed part of the realm of King Sihon of the Amorites and, after the Israelite conquest of that region, was assigned to the tribe of Reuben.
- Now these are the kings of the land whom the sons of Israel defeated and whose land they then took possession of on the side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the torrent valley of Arnon up to Mount Hermon and all the Arabah toward the sunrise. (**Joshua 12:1**)
- 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**)

- And the Arabah as far as the sea of Chinnereth toward the east and as far as the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, to the east in the direction of **Beth-jeshimoth**, and toward the south under the slopes of Pisgah. (**Joshua 12:3**)
- 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**)
- Heshbon and all its towns that are on the tableland, Dibon and Bamoth-baal and Beth-baal-meon. (**Joshua 13:17**)
- And Jahaz and Kedemoth and Mephaath. (**Joshua 13:18**)
- And Kiriathaim and Sibmah and Zereth-shahar in the mountain of the low plain. (**Joshua 13:19**)
- And Beth-peor and the slopes of Pisgah and **Beth-jeshimoth**. (**Joshua 13:20**)
- And all the cities of the tableland and all the royal realm of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, and whom Moses struck, together with the chieftains of Midian, Evi and Rekem and Zur and Hur and Reba, the dukes of Sihon, who were dwelling in the land. (**Joshua 13:21**)
- 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**)
- But Jephthah sent once more messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:14**)
- And said to him; This is what Jephthah has said; Israel did not take the land of Moab and the land of the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:15**)
- For when they came up out of Egypt Israel went walking through

the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and got to come to Kadesh. **(Judges 11:16)**

- Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not listen. And also to the king of Moab they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. **(Judges 11:17)**
- When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, so that they went toward the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of Moab, because Arnon was the boundary of Moab. **(Judges 11:18)**
- After that Israel sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him; Let us pass, please, through your land to my own place. **(Judges 11:19)**
- And Sihon did not feel sure about Israel's crossing through his territory, and Sihon went gathering all his people together and camping in Jahaz and fighting against Israel. **(Judges 11:20)**
- At this Yehowah the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they struck them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites inhabiting that land. **(Judges 11:21)**
- 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)**
- And now Yehowah the God of Israel it was that dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and you, for your part, would dispossess them. **(Judges 11:23)**
- Is it not whomever Chemosh your god causes you to dispossess that you will dispossess? And every one whom Yehowah our God has dispossessed from before us is the one we shall dispossess. **(Judges 11:24)**
- And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? **(Judges 11:25)**

- 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**)
- As for me, I have not sinned against you, but you are dealing wrong with me by fighting against me. Let Yehowah the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:27**)
- In the time of the prophet Ezekiel, it is included with certain cities of Moab located on the slope of his frontier and described as the decoration of the land.
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; For the reason that Moab and Seir have said, Look! The house of Judah is like all the other nations. (**Ezekiel 25:8**)
- Therefore here I am opening the slope of Moab at the cities, at his cities to his frontier, the decoration of the land, **Beth-jeshimoth**, Baal-meon, even to Kiriathaim. (**Ezekiel 25:9**)
- To the Orientals, alongside the sons of Ammon, and I will make it something to possess, in order, that it may not be remembered, that is, the sons of Ammon, among the nations. (**Ezekiel 25:10**)
- The prophecy indicates that Yehowah would cause these frontier cities to be opened up, exposing Moab to attack by the Orientals, or sons of the East, the nomadic tribes living in the Arabian Desert.
- And it occurred that, if Israel sowed seed, Midian and Amalek and the Easterners came up, yes, they came up against them. (**Judges 6:3**) Footnote
- Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their camps with them, about fifteen thousand being all who were left over out of the entire camp of the Easterners, and those already fallen were a hundred and twenty thousand men who used to draw the sword. (**Judges 8:10**)
- If not earlier, Moab likely took over **Beth-jeshimoth** and other cities of Reuben following the deportation of that tribe to Assyria.

- **Consequently the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul the king of Assyria even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser the king of Assyria, so that he took into exile those of the Reubenites and of the Gadites and of the half tribe of Manasseh and brought them to Halah and Habor and Hara and the river Gozan to continue until this day. (1 Chronicles 5:26)**