~BETH-MERHAK (70)
(Beth-mer'hak) [House Far Away, Distant House]

·	When King David withdrew from Jerusalem because of the rebellion of his son Absalom, he stopped at Beth-merhak, perhaps the last house of Jerusalem in the direction of the Mount of Olives before crossing the Kidron Valley.

·	And the king continued on his way out with all the people at his feet, and they came to a stop at Beth-merhak. (2 Samuel 15:17)

·	And all the people of the land were weeping with a loud voice, and all the people were crossing over, and the king was standing by the torrent valley of Kidron, and all the people were crossing over upon the open road to the wilderness. (2 Samuel 15:23)

·	It appears that at this point King David reviewed his forces as they were crossing over the valley, thus indicating that David was not engaged in a wild, panicky flight but, rather, was making an orderly withdrawal from the city.

·	And all his servants were crossing at his side, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men that had followed him from Gath, were crossing before the kings face. (2 Samuel 15:18)

·	Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite; Why should you yourself also go with us? Go back and dwell with the king, for you are a foreigner and, besides, you are an exile from your place. (2 Samuel 15:19)

·	Yesterday was when you came and today shall I make you wander with us, to go when I am going wherever I am going? Go back and take your brothers back with you, and may Yehowah exercise toward you loving-kindness and trustworthiness! (2 Samuel 15:20)

·	But Ittai answered the king and said; As Yehowah is living and as my lord the king is living, in the place where my lord the king may come to be, whether for death or for life, there is where your servant will come to be! (2 Samuel 15:21)

- At that David said to Ittai; Go and cross over. So Ittai the Gittite crossed over, and also all his men and all the little ones that were with him. (**2 Samuel 15:22**)

- And all the people of the land were weeping with a loud voice, and all the people were crossing over, and the king was standing by the torrent valley of Kidron, and all the people were crossing over upon the open road to the wilderness. (**2 Samuel 15:23**)

- And here also there were Zadok and with him all the Levites carrying the ark of the covenant of the true God, and they proceeded to set the ark of the true God down by Abiathar until all the people completed crossing over from the city. (**2 Samuel 15:24**)

- But the king said to Zadok; Take the ark of the true God back to the city. If I shall find favor in the eyes of Yehowah, he will also certainly bring me back and let me see it and its abiding place. (**2 Samuel 15:25**)

- But if this is what he should say; I have found no delight in you, here I am, let him do to me just as it is good in his eyes. (**2 Samuel 15:26**)