

~BETH-PEOR (110)

(Beth-pe'or) [House of Peor]

- In the final year of their wilderness journey the nation of Israel was encamped in the valley in front of **Beth-peor**.
- All this while we were dwelling in the valley in front of **Bethpeor**. (**Deuteronomy 3:29**)
- **Beth-peor** may have been a town situated on the slopes of **Peor**. Both the mountain and the town may well have been associated with the worship of **the Baal of Peor**. As reported at;
- Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)
- And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (**Numbers 25:2**)
- So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)
- Hence Yehowah said to Moses; Take all the head one's of the people and expose them to Yehowah toward the sun, that the burning anger of Yehowah may turn back from Israel. (**Numbers 25:4**)
- Then Moses said to the judges of Israel; Each one of you kill his men who have an attachment with the **Baal of Peor**. (**Numbers 25:5**)
- But, look! A man of the sons of Israel came, and he was bringing near to his brothers a Midianite woman before Moses eyes and before the eyes of all the assembly of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 25:6**)
- When Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest caught sight of it, he at once got up from the midst of the assembly and took a lance in his hand. (**Numbers 25:7**)

- Then he went after the man of Israel into the vaulted tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman through her genital parts. At that the scourge was halted from upon the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 25:8**)
- And those who died from the scourge amounted to twenty-four thousand. (**Numbers 25:9**)
- The Israelites became ensnared with the immoral rites involved in such worship.

See Also BAAL OF PEOR

- It was on the Plains of Moab, in the region of the Jordan, that Moses restated the Law to Israel, and thereafter Moses was buried in the valley in the land of Moab in front of **Beth-peor**.
- **Beth-peor** thus appears to have been in the land of Moab, that is, in land the Moabites had occupied, but in the territory more recently controlled by King Sihon of the Amorites, that is, until his defeat by the nation of Israel.
- In the region of the Jordan in the valley in front of **Beth-peor**, in the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who was dwelling in Heshbon, whom Moses and the sons of Israel defeated on their coming out of Egypt. (**Deuteronomy 4:46**)
- And he proceeded to bury him in the valley in the land of Moab in front of **Beth-peor**, and nobody has come to know his grave down to this day. (**Deuteronomy 34:6**)
- It was later assigned to the tribe of Reuben, being mentioned along with the slopes of Pisgah and Beth-jeshimoth.
- Then Moses made a gift to the tribe of the sons of Reuben by their families. (**Joshua 13:15**)
- And **Beth-peor** and the slopes of Pisgah and Beth-jeshimoth. (**Joshua 13:20**)
- These texts all indicate a location near the Northeast end of the Dead Sea and facing the Plains of Moab. The precise location is uncertain. Nevertheless, Eusebius referred to such a place about six

Roman miles (9 kilometers)(5.5 miles) East of **Livias, modern Tell er-Rameh**. [Onomasticon, 48,3-5]

- On this basis some suggest an identification with Khirbet esh-Sheikh-Jayil about 5 kilometers (3 miles) West-Northwest of the traditional site of Mount Nebo.
- This site is on the slope of a summit that may have been the **Peor** to which Balaam was taken as the final place to do cursing of Israel. If the above location is correct, then the valley in front of **Beth-peor** would likely be the Wadi Husban.
- With that Balak took Balaam to the top of **Peor**, which looks toward Jeshimon. (**Numbers 23:28**)
- In the region of the Jordan in the valley in front of **Beth-peor**, in the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who was dwelling in Heshbon, whom Moses and the sons of Israel defeated on their coming out of Egypt. (**Deuteronomy 4:46**)

See Also PEOR