

**~BETH-ZUR (89)**  
**[House of the Rock]**

- A town in the mountainous region of Judah listed between Halhul and Gedor.
- Halhul, **Beth-zur** and Gedor. (**Joshua 15:58**)
- The name is still preserved at **Burj es-Sur**, while excavations have shown the actual site of the ancient city to be at **Khirbet et-Tubeiqeh, Bet Zur**, about 0.5 kilometers (0.3 miles) to the Northwest. This location is 7.5 kilometers (4.5 miles) North of Hebron, with Gedor about 5 kilometers (3 miles) farther North-Northwest and Halhul 1.5 kilometers (1 miles) to the South-Southeast.
- It is described as one of the highest ruined towns in Palestine, being situated on a hill 1,007 meters (3,304 feet) above sea level. As it was near the highway leading North-South along the ridge of the watershed route and also guarded the routes leading to Mareshah and Libnah in the West, **Beth-zur** occupied a position of strategic importance.
- Following the division of the kingdom, **Beth-zur** was one of 15 cities rebuilt and fortified by King Rehoboam as a means of protecting Judah and Benjamin against invasion.
- And Rehoboam continued to dwell in Jerusalem and proceeded to build fortified cities in Judah. (**2 Chronicles 11:5**)
- Thus he rebuilt Bethlehem and Etam and Tekoa. (**2 Chronicles 11:6**)
- And **Beth-zur** and Soco and Adullam. (**2 Chronicles 11:7**)
- And Gath and Mareshah and Ziph. (**2 Chronicles 11:8**)
- And Adoraim and Lachish and Azekah. (**2 Chronicles 11:9**)
- And Zorah and Aijalon and Hebron, fortified cities, which were in Judah and Benjamin. (**2 Chronicles 11:10**)
- Further, he reinforced the fortified places and put leaders in

- them and supplies of food and oil and wine. (2 Chronicles 11:11)
- And in all the different cities large shields and lances, and he went on reinforcing them to a very great degree. And Judah and Benjamin continued his. (2 Chronicles 11:12)
  - It was among the cities re-inhabited by the Jews returning from the Babylonian exile.
  - After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, a prince of half the district of **Beth-zur**, did repair work as far as in front of the Burial Places of David and as far as the pool that had been made and as far as the House of the Mighty Ones. (Nehemiah 3:16)
  - During the Maccabean period **Beth-zur**, then called Bethsura, figured prominently in the Jews struggle against the Seleucid kings of Syria, the Apocryphal book of First Maccabees describing a signal victory won there by Judas Maccabaeus against the Syrian forces, 165 B.C.E, following which he fortified the city again. [1 Maccabees 4:61][1 Maccabees 6:26]
  - In 162 B.C.E. the Syrians besieged the city, and it eventually capitulated because of lack of food supplies. [1 Maccabees 6:30-50] It became a Syrian garrison, and General Bacchides strengthened its fortifications. [1 Maccabees 9:52]
  - Archaeological excavations at **Beth-zur** in 1931 C.E. and 1957 C.E. revealed evidence of strong fortifications. Numerous coins were found dating from the Fourth to the Second Century B.C.E., these included silver Jewish coins believed to date from the Persian period or about the Fourth Century B.C.E.
  - The name **Beth-zur** appears in a genealogical list of the descendants of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel at;
  - And the son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of **Beth-zur**. (1 Chronicles 2:45)
  - Maon is there said to be the father of **Beth-zur**. Many commentators understand **Beth-zur** to refer to the town of that name, Maon in such case being the father of those settling there, or perhaps the chief or principal one of the city.