

~EN-GEDI (150)

(En-ge'di) [Fountain or Spring of the Kid]

- The name of a city and the surrounding wilderness in the territory of Judah.
- And Nibshan and the City of Salt and **En-gedi**, six cities and their settlements. (**Joshua 15:62**)
- And it came about that, as soon as Saul returned from following the Philistines, they came reporting to him, saying; Look! David is in the wilderness of **En-gedi**. (**1 Samuel 24:1**)
- The city is usually identified with **Tell Jurn**, **Tel Goren**, near the modern settlement of **`En Gedi**, about 37 kilometers (23 miles) South-southeast of Jerusalem on the shore of the Dead Sea.
- The Shulammite maiden alluded to the fruitfulness of the region, referring to a cluster of henna among the vineyards of **En-gedi**.
- As a cluster of henna my dear one is to me, among the vineyards of **En-gedi**. (**Song of Solomon 1:14**)
- This, however, only partly describes the rich plant life that flourishes there even today. **En-gedi's** particular location in the depression of the region of the Dead Sea is conducive to the growth of semitropical vegetation, palms and balsam, plus a variety of fruits, making **En-gedi** an oasis that stands out from the nearby severely desolate Wilderness of Judah.

See Also JUDAH, WILDERNESS OF

- Not only this abundant growth but also the inaccessibility of the region made **En-gedi** an ideal hideout for David when he was being pursued by King Saul. Thus the Bible speaks of certain places difficult to approach at **En-gedi**.
- Then David made his way up from there and took up dwelling in the places difficult to approach at **En-gedi**. (**1 Samuel 23:29**)
- Modern-day visitors have similarly depicted the dangerous and precipitous rocky passes in that area. The hostility of parts of the

terrain is also indicated by the reference to the bare rocks of the mountain goats.

- And Saul proceeded to take three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and to go looking for David and his men upon the bare rocks of the mountain goats. (1 Samuel 24:2)
- Some scholars consider this a proper name, Rocks of the Wild Goats, **AT, JB, RS**, referring to some particular locality where goats were likely to congregate, as they do even in modern times in the **En-gedi** region.
- However, others view this term as simply a descriptive phrase for the regions goat-inhabited, rough, conical mountains and ridges. The rocks of **En-gedi** are honeycombed with roomy caves. David and his men may have hidden in one of these.
- At length he came to the stone sheepfolds along the road, where a cave was. So Saul came in to ease nature, while David and his men were in the parts of the cave farthest back, sitting down. (1 Samuel 24:3)
- Some suggest that the stone sheepfolds where Saul stopped may refer to these caves, with a rough wall built in front to give weather protection.
- And Saul proceeded to take three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and to go looking for David and his men upon the bare rocks of the mountain goats. (1 Samuel 24:2)
- At length he came to the stone sheepfolds along the road, where a cave was. So Saul came in to ease nature, while David and his men were in the parts of the cave farthest back, sitting down. (1 Samuel 24:3)
- And David's men began to say to him; Here is the day on which Yehowah does say to you, Look! I am giving your enemy into your hand, and you must do to him just as it may seem good in your eyes. So David rose up and quietly cut off the skirt of the sleeveless coat that belonged to Saul. (1 Samuel 24:4)
- But it came about afterward that David's heart kept striking him for the reason that he had cut off the skirt of the sleeveless coat that belonged to Saul. (1 Samuel 24:5)

- Hence he said to his men; It is unthinkable, on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, that I should do this thing to my lord, the anointed of Yehowah, by thrusting out my hand against him, for he is the anointed of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 24:6)
- Accordingly David dispersed his men with these words, and he did not allow them to rise up against Saul. As for Saul, he rose up from the cave and kept going on his way. (1 Samuel 24:7)
- So David rose up afterward and went out from the cave and called out after Saul, saying; My lord the king! At this Saul looked behind him, and David proceeded to bow low with his face to the earth and prostrate himself. (1 Samuel 24:8)
- And David went on to say to Saul; Why do you listen to the words of man, saying; Look! David is seeking your hurt? (1 Samuel 24:9)
- Here this day your eyes have seen how Yehowah gave you today into my hand in the cave, and someone said to kill you, but I felt sorry for you and said; I shall not thrust out my hand against my lord, for he is the anointed of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 24:10)
- The united forces of Ammon, Moab, and the mountainous region of Seir came against Judah in the days of King Jehoshaphat by way of Hazazon-tamar, that is to say; **En-gedi**.
- So people came and told Jehoshaphat, saying; There has come against you a large crowd from the region of the sea, from Edom, and there they are in Hazazon-tamar, that is to say; **En-gedi**. (2 Chronicles 20:2)
- In Ezekiel's vision of the healed seawater, fishers were prophesied to station themselves from **En-gedi** even up to En-eglaim.
- And he went on to say to me; This water is going forth to the eastern region and must go down through the Arabah. And it must come to the sea. It being brought forth into the sea itself, its water is also actually healed. (Ezekiel 47:8)
- And it must occur that every living soul that swarms, in every place to which the double-size torrent comes, will get life. And it must occur that there will be very many fish, because there is

where this water will certainly come, and the seawater will be healed, and everything will be alive where the torrent comes. (**Ezekiel 47:9**)

- And it must occur that fishers will actually stand alongside it from **En-gedi** even up to En-eglaim. There will come to be a drying yard for dragnets. In their kinds their fish will prove to be, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. (**Ezekiel 47:10**)

See Also HAZAZON-TAMAR