

~ESHTAOL (70)

(Esh'ta-ol) [possibly, Place of Making Inquiry of God]

- A city in the Shephelah, assigned to Judah.
- This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Judah by their families. (Joshua 15:20)
- In the Shephelah there were **Eshtaol** and Zorah and Ashnah. (Joshua 15:33)
- It was later listed as a town on Dan's border.
- It was for the tribe of the sons of Dan by their families that the seventh lot came out. (Joshua 19:40)
- And the border of their inheritance came to be Zorah and **Eshtaol** and Ir-shemesh. (Joshua 19:41)
- Judge Samson was first impelled by Yehowah's spirit in this vicinity, and upon his death he was buried there.
- In time Yehowah's spirit started to impel him in Mahaneh-dan between Zorah and **Eshtaol**. (Judges 13:25)
- Later his brothers and all the household of his father came on down and lifted him up and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and **Eshtaol** in the burial place of Manoaah his father. As for him, he had judged Israel twenty years. (Judges 16:31)
- The 5 Danites spying out Laish and the 600 who subsequently captured it departed from **Eshtaol** and Zorah.
- In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was looking for an inheritance for itself to dwell there, because up to that day an inheritance had not fallen to them in the midst of the tribes of Israel. (Judges 18:1)
- Eventually the sons of Dan sent five men of their family, men from among them, men who were valiant fellows, out from Zorah and **Eshtaol**, to spy out the land and to explore it. So they said to

them; Go, explore the land. In time they came into the mountainous region of Ephraim as far as the house of Micah and got to spend the night there. (**Judges 18:2**)

- Accordingly the five men went on and came to Laish and saw how the people that were within it were dwelling in self-reliance according to the custom of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, and there was no oppressive conqueror that was molesting a thing in the land, while they were far off from the Sidonians and they had nothing to do with mankind. (**Judges 18:7**)
- Then six hundred men girded with weapons of war, out of the family of the Danites, departed from there, that is, from Zorah and **Eshtaol**. (**Judges 18:11**)
- As for them, they took what Micah had made and the priest that had become his, and they kept going toward Laish, against a people quiet and unsuspecting. And they proceeded to strike them with the edge of the sword, and the city they burned with fire. (**Judges 18:27**)
- Scholars generally identify **Eshtaol** with the partially occupied present-day site of **Eshwa`**, **Eshta´ol**. It stands on a platform of rock about 21 kilometers (13 miles) West of Jerusalem.