

~ETAM 2 (48)

(E'tam) [Place of Birds of Prey]

- The crag **Etam**, where Samson lived after burning the Philistines fields. From this crag, 3,000 men of Judah took him, willingly bound, back to the Philistines.
- And he went smiting them, piling legs upon thighs with a great slaughter, after which he went down and began to dwell in a cleft of the crag **Etam**. (**Judges 15:8**)
- Later the Philistines came up and camped in Judah and went tramping about in Lehi. (**Judges 15:9**)
- Then the men of Judah said; Why have you come up against us? to which they said; It is to tie Samson that we have come up, to do to him just as he has done to us. (**Judges 15:10**)
- So three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the crag **Etam** and said to Samson; Do you not know that the Philistines are ruling over us? So what does this mean that you have done to us? Then he said to them; Just as they did to me is the way I have done to them. (**Judges 15:11**)
- But they said to him; It is to tie you that we have come down, to give you into the hand of the Philistines. At that Samson said to them; Swear to me that you yourselves will not assault me. (**Judges 15:12**)
- And they went on to say to him; No, but we shall merely tie you, and we will give you into their hand, but we shall by no means put you to death. (**Judges 15:13**)
- Whereas no positive identification for the crag **Etam** is possible, a connection with the town, **NO. 3** below, cannot be altogether eliminated. However, just 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) East-Southeast of the suggested site of Samson's hometown Zorah.
- Meanwhile there happened to be a certain man of Zorah of the family of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had borne no child. (**Judges 13:2**)

- Is **`Araq Isma`in**, an isolated crag with a lofty cavern affording a broad view of the Shephelah below. Appropriate to the meaning of the name, this may possibly be the site of the crag **Etam**.