

### ~ETAM 3 (34)

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

- A town of Judah located probably at **Khirbet el-Khokh**, on a hill about 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) Southwest of Bethlehem. Apparently **Etam** and Bethlehem had been settled by close relatives.
- And these were the sons of the father of **Etam**, Jezreel and Ishma and Idbash, and the name of their sister was Hazzelelponi. (**1 Chronicles 4:3**)
- And Penuel the father of Gedor and Ezer the father of Hushah. These were the sons of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah the father of Bethlehem. (**1 Chronicles 4:4**)
- According to Josephus, King Solomon often took a morning chariot ride from Jerusalem those 13 kilometers (8 miles) out to **Etam**, where there were gardens and streams. [*Jewish Antiquities*, VIII, 186 [vii, 3]]. The town was rebuilt and fortified by Solomon's successor Rehoboam.
- 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**)
- According to the Talmud, an aqueduct linked Jerusalem with a spring to the West of **Etam**. [*Babylonian Talmud*, Yoma 31a, *Palestinian (Jerusalem) Talmud*, Yoma 41a]

**See Also ATROTH-BETH-JOAB**