

~GIBEAH 2 (389)
(Gib'e-ah) [Hill]

- **A city in the territory of Benjamin.**
- **And Zelah, Ha-eleph and Jebusi, that is to say; Jerusalem, **Gibeah** and Kiriath, fourteen cities and their settlements. This was the inheritance of the sons of Benjamin by their families. (Joshua 18:28)**
- **Also called **Gibeah** of Benjamin.**
- **And Saul proceeded to choose for himself three thousand men out of Israel, and two thousand came to be with Saul at Michmash and in the mountainous region of Bethel, and a thousand proved to be with Jonathan at **Gibeah** of Benjamin, and the rest of the people he sent away, each one to his tent. (1 Samuel 13:2)**
- ****Gibeah** of the sons of Benjamin.**
- **Heleb the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of **Gibeah** of the sons of Benjamin. (2 Samuel 23:29)**
- **And **Gibeah** of Saul.**
- **Let there be given to us seven men of his sons, and we must expose them to Yehowah in **Gibeah** of Saul, the chosen one of Yehowah. Accordingly the king said; I myself shall give them. (2 Samuel 21:6)**
- **It was apparently situated near the main road between Jebus, Jerusalem, and Ramah.**
- **While they were close by Jebus, as the daylight had gone down considerably, the attendant now said to his master; O come, now, and let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites and stay in it overnight. (Judges 19:11)**
- **But his master said to him; Let us not turn aside to a city of foreigners who are no part of the sons of Israel, and we have to pass on as far as **Gibeah**. (Judges 19:12)**

- And he went on to say to his attendant; Come and let us approach one of the places, and we must stay overnight either in **Gibeah** or in Ramah. (**Judges 19:13**)
- So they passed along and kept on their way, and the sun began to set upon them when near to **Gibeah**, which belongs to Benjamin. (**Judges 19:14**)
- Consequently they turned aside there to go in to stay overnight in **Gibeah**. And they proceeded to go in and sit down in the public square of the city, and there was nobody taking them on into the house to stay overnight. (**Judges 19:15**)
- Because of its position on one of the heights of Palestine's central mountain ridge, **Gibeah** served well as a lookout point in time of war.
- And the watchmen belonging to Saul in **Gibeah** of Benjamin got to see it, and, look! The turmoil swayed this way and that. (**1 Samuel 14:16**)
- Scholars generally identify this city with **Tell el-Ful**, **Giv'at Sha'ul**, located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) North of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- The **Hebrew** spellings of **Geba**, masculine form of the word meaning **Hill** and **Gibeah**, feminine form of the term meaning **Hill** are almost identical.
- Many believe that this has resulted in scribal errors in the **Masoretic** text and therefore recommend changing certain scriptures to read Geba instead of Gibeah, and vice versa.
- On this, one commentary, with reference to First Samuel chapters 13 and 14, observes; But commentators are much at variance as to where the substitutions should be made (e.g.) **Smith** reads **Geba** for **Gibeah** throughout, **Kennedy** reads, **Geba** for **Gibeah** in;
- And Saul proceeded to choose for himself three thousand men out of Israel, and two thousand came to be with Saul at Michmash and in the mountainous region of Bethel, and a thousand proved to be with Jonathan at **Gibeah** of Benjamin, and the rest of the people he sent away, each one to his tent. (**1**

Samuel 13:2)

- **Gibeah** for **Geba** in;
- Then Jonathan struck down the garrison of the Philistines that was in **Geba**, and the Philistines got to hear of it. As for Saul, he had the horn blown throughout all the land, saying; Let the Hebrews hear! (**1 Samuel 13:3**)
- And **Geba** for **Gibeah** in;
- And Saul was dwelling at the outskirts of **Gibeah** under the pomegranate tree that is in Migron, and the people that were with him were about six hundred men. (**1 Samuel 14:2**)
- And it is not impossible to understand the progress of the campaign without such alterations. [Soncino Books of the Bible, edited by A. Cohen, London, 1951, Samuel, p. 69]
- And we must take ten men out of a hundred of all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to procure provisions for the people, that they may take action by going against Gibeah of Benjamin, in view of all the disgraceful folly that they did in Israel. (**Judges 20:10**)
- And all the men of Israel rose up from their places and went drawing up in formation at Baal-tamar, while those of Israel in ambush were making a charge out of their places in the vicinity of Gibeah. (**Judges 20:33**)
- The context suggests that **Gibeah** is intended, and therefore many translators depart here from the reading of the **Masoretic** text and employ **Gibeah** rather than **Geba**.
- In the period of the Judges, the city of **Gibeah** figured in an incident that led to the near extermination of the entire tribe of Benjamin. An old man invited an Ephraimite Levite and his concubine to stay with him for the night.
- Soon good-for-nothing men of **Gibeah** surrounded the house, demanding that the Levite be turned over to them so that they might have intercourse with him. After the Levite gave his concubine into their hands, they so abused her all night that she died in the morning. This shocking sin may be alluded to at;

- Then Jonathan struck down the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines got to hear of it. As for Saul, he had the horn blown throughout all the land, saying; Let the Hebrews hear! (**1 Samuel 13:3**)
- Since the tribe of Benjamin shielded the guilty men of **Gibeah**, the other tribes warred against Benjamin. They twice sustained severe losses before finally defeating the Benjamites and consigning **Gibeah** to the fire.
- Consequently they turned aside there to go in to stay overnight in **Gibeah**. And they proceeded to go in and sit down in the public square of the city, and there was nobody taking them on into the house to stay overnight. (**Judges 19:15**)
- And the men of Israel came back against the sons of Benjamin and went striking with the edge of the sword those of the city, from men to domestic animal up to all that were found. Also, all the cities that were found they consigned to the fire. (**Judges 20:48**)
- Some link the Biblical record concerning the destruction of **Gibeah** with the archaeological evidence uncovered at **Tell el-Ful** indicating that the city was burned.
- **Gibeah** was the home of Israel's first king, Saul.
- As for Saul himself, he went to his home at **Gibeah**, and the valiant men whose heart God had touched proceeded to go with him. (**1 Samuel 10:26**)
- Samuel now went his way to Ramah, and Saul, for his part, went up to his own house at **Gibeah** of Saul. (**1 Samuel 15:34**)
- And apparently also of Ittai or Ithai, one of David's mighty men.
- These are the names of the mighty men that belonged to David. Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite, the head of the three. He was brandishing his spear over eight hundred slain at one time. (**2 Samuel 23:8**)
- Heleb the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of **Gibeah** of the sons of Benjamin. (**2 Samuel 23:29**)

- As for the mighty men of the military forces, there were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem. (**1 Chronicles 11:26**)
- Ithai the son of Ribai of **Gibeah** of the sons of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite. (**1 Chronicles 11:31**)
- As well as of Ahi-ezer and Joash, two warriors who joined themselves to David at Ziklag.
- And these are the ones that came to David at Ziklag while he was still under restrictions because of Saul the son of Kish, and they were among the mighty men, the helpers in the warfare. (**1 Chronicles 12:1**)
- Armed with the bow, using the right hand and using the left hand with stones or with arrows in the bow. They were of the brothers of Saul, of Benjamin. (**1 Chronicles 12:2**)
- There was the head Ahiezer and Joash the sons of Shemaah the **Gibeathite**, and Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth, and Beracah and Jehu the Anathothite. (**1 Chronicles 12:3**)
- **Gibeah** evidently also served as the first capital of the Israelite kingdom under Saul. At **Gibeah**, messengers from Jabesh, Jabesh-gilead appealed for aid when faced with an Ammonite siege, and from here King Saul immediately summoned Israel for war to meet this threat.
- And Nahash the Ammonite proceeded to go up and camp against Jabesh in Gilead. At that all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash; Conclude a covenant with us that we may serve you. (**1 Samuel 11:1**)
- Then Nahash the Ammonite said to them; On this condition I shall conclude it with you, on the condition of boring out every right eye of yours, and I must put it as a reproach upon all Israel. (**1 Samuel 11:2**)
- In turn the older men of Jabesh said to him; Give us seven days time, and we will send messengers into all the territory of Israel and, if there is no savior of us, we must then go out to you. (**1 Samuel 11:3**)

- In time the messengers came to **Gibeah** of Saul and spoke the words in the ears of the people, and all the people began raising their voice and weeping. (**1 Samuel 11:4**)
- But here is Saul coming after the herd from the field, and Saul proceeded to say; What is the matter with the people, that they should weep? And they began relating to him the words of the men of Jabesh. (**1 Samuel 11:5**)
- And the spirit of God became operative upon Saul on his hearing these words, and his anger got very hot. (**1 Samuel 11:6**)
- So he took a pair of bulls and cut them in pieces and sent these into all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying; Whoever of us is not going out as a follower of Saul and of Samuel, this is the way it will be done to his cattle! And the dread of Yehowah began to fall upon the people so that they came out as one man. (**1 Samuel 11:7**)
- Later, Saul's war operations against the Philistines were launched in the vicinity of **Gibeah**.
- And Saul proceeded to choose for himself three thousand men out of Israel, and two thousand came to be with Saul at Michmash and in the mountainous region of Bethel, and a thousand proved to be with Jonathan at **Gibeah** of Benjamin, and the rest of the people he sent away, each one to his tent. (**1 Samuel 13:2**)
- Then Jonathan struck down the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines got to hear of it. As for Saul, he had the horn blown throughout all the land, saying; Let the Hebrews hear! (**1 Samuel 13:3**)
- And all Israel itself heard tell; Saul has struck down a garrison of the Philistines, and now Israel has become foul-smelling among the Philistines. So the people were called together to follow Saul to Gilgal. (**1 Samuel 13:4**)
- Then Samuel rose and went his way up from Gilgal to **Gibeah** of Benjamin, and Saul proceeded to take the count of the people, those yet found with him, about six hundred men. (**1 Samuel 13:15**)

- And Saul was dwelling at the outskirts of **Gibeah** under the pomegranate tree that is in Migron, and the people that were with him were about six hundred men. (**1 Samuel 14:2**)
- And the watchmen belonging to Saul in **Gibeah** of Benjamin got to see it, and, look! The turmoil swayed this way and that. (**1 Samuel 14:16**)
- Also, on two occasions men of Ziph made report to Saul at **Gibeah** concerning the hideout of outlawed David.
- Later the men of Ziph went up to Saul at **Gibeah**, saying; Is not David concealing himself close by us in the places difficult to approach at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is to the right side of Jeshimon? (**1 Samuel 23:19**)
- In time the men of Ziph came to Saul at **Gibeah**, saying; Is not David concealing himself on the hill of Hachilah, facing Jeshimon? (**1 Samuel 26:1**)
- During the reign of David, seven of Saul's sons and grandsons were put to death at **Gibeah**, **Gibeon**, according to **Aquila**, **Symmachus**, and **LXX** because of the bloodguilt that had come upon the house of Saul on account of his having put many **Gibeonites** to death.
- And Saul's widowed concubine kept watch over the dead men so that scavenger birds and animals would not feed on their bodies.
- Now there came to be a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year, and David proceeded to consult the face of Yehowah. Then Yehowah said; Upon Saul and upon his house there is bloodguilt, because he put the Gibeonites to death. (**2 Samuel 21:1**)
- And David went on to say to the Gibeonites; What shall I do to you, and with what shall I make atonement, that you may certainly bless the inheritance of Yehowah? (**2 Samuel 21:3**)
- So the Gibeonites said to him; It is not a matter of silver or gold for us in connection with Saul and his household, neither is it ours to put a man to death in Israel. At that he said; Whatever you are saying I shall do for you. (**2 Samuel 21:4**)
- At this they said to the king; The man that exterminated us and

that schemed to annihilate us from subsisting in any of the territory of Israel. (2 Samuel 21:5)

- Let there be given to us seven men of his sons, and we must expose them to Yehowah in **Gibeah** of Saul, the chosen one of Yehowah. Accordingly the king said; I myself shall give them. (2 Samuel 21:6)
- However, the king felt compassion upon Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan the son of Saul on account of the oath of Yehowah that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. (2 Samuel 21:7)
- Consequently the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth, and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. (2 Samuel 21:8)
- Then he gave them into the hand of the Gibeonites and they proceeded to expose them on the mountain before Yehowah, so that the seven of them fell together, and they themselves were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the start of the barley harvest. (2 Samuel 21:9)
- However, Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself upon the rock from the start of harvest until water poured down upon them from the heavens, and she did not allow the fowls of the heavens to rest upon them by day nor the wild beasts of the field by night. (2 Samuel 21:10)
- At length it was reported to David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Saul's concubine, had done. (2 Samuel 21:11)
- In the **Eighth Century B.C.E**, through the prophet Isaiah, Yehowah prophetically spoke of **Gibeah** as having fled from the Assyrian army that was en route to Jerusalem.
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies, has said; Do not be afraid, O my people who are dwelling in Zion, because of the Assyrian, who with the rod used to strike you and who used to lift up his own staff against you in the way that Egypt did. (Isaiah 10:24)
- They have passed over the ford, Geba is a place for them to

spend the night, Ramah has trembled, **Gibeah** of Saul itself has fled. (**Isaiah 10:29**)

- Let your voice out in shrill cries, O daughter of Gallim. Pay attention, O Laishah. O you afflicted one, Anathoth! (**Isaiah 10:30**)
- Madmenah has run away. The inhabitants of **Gebim** themselves have taken to shelter. (**Isaiah 10:31**)
- It is yet day in Nob to make a halt. He waves his hand threateningly at the mountain of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. (**Isaiah 10:32**)
- And by means of Hosea, God prophetically portrays a situation that makes it appear as though the northern ten-tribe kingdom had already been conquered, with the enemy threatening **Gibeah** and Ramah in Benjamin, in the southern kingdom of Judah.
- Blow a horn in **Gibeah**, a trumpet in Ramah! Shout a war cry at Beth-aven, after you, O Benjamin! (**Hosea 5:8**)
- O Ephraim, a mere object of astonishment you will become in the day of rebuke. Among the tribes of Israel I have made known trustworthy words. (**Hosea 5:9**)
- The princes of Judah have become just like those moving back a boundary. Upon them I shall pour out my fury just like water. (**Hosea 5:10**)