

## **~GILGAL 1 (582)**

### **(Gil'gal) [Rolling, Rolling Away]**

- **A city on the eastern border of Jericho.**
- **And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and took up camping at **Gilgal** on the eastern border of Jericho. (**Joshua 4:19**)**
- **Near **Gilgal's** quarries, Moabite King Eglon, the oppressor of Israel in the time of Ehud, evidently had his residence.**
- **And once again the sons of Israel went doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. At that Yehowah let Eglon the king of Moab grow strong against Israel, because they did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (**Judges 3:12**)**
- **Furthermore, he gathered against them the sons of Ammon and Amalek. Then they went and struck Israel and took possession of the city of palm trees. (**Judges 3:13**)**
- **And the sons of Israel continued to serve Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. (**Judges 3:14**)**
- **And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. So Yehowah raised up for them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. In time the sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon the king of Moab. (**Judges 3:15**)**
- **Meanwhile Ehud made a sword for himself, and it had two edges, its length being a cubit. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. (**Judges 3:16**)**
- **And he proceeded to present the tribute to Eglon the king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. (**Judges 3:17**)**
- **And it came about that when he had finished presenting the tribute, he at once sent the people away, the bearers of the tribute. (**Judges 3:18**)**
- **And he himself turned back at the quarries that were at **Gilgal**, and he proceeded to say; I have a secret word for you, O king.**

**So he said; Keep silence! With that all those who were standing by him went on out from him. (Judges 3:19)**

- **And Ehud came to him as he was sitting in his cool roof chamber that he had to himself. And Ehud went on to say; A word of God I have for you. At that he rose up from his throne. (Judges 3:20)**
- **Then Ehud thrust in his left hand and took the sword off his right thigh and plunged it into his belly. (Judges 3:21)**
- **And the handle kept going in also after the blade so that the fat closed in over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly, and the fecal matter began to come out. (Judges 3:22)**
- **And Ehud proceeded to go out through the air hole, but he closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them. (Judges 3:23)**
- **And he himself went out. And his servants came and began looking, and there the doors of the roof chamber were locked. So they said; He is just easing nature in the cool interior room. (Judges 3:24)**
- **And they kept waiting until they were ashamed, and, look! There was no one opening the doors of the roof chamber. At this they took the key and opened them, and, look! Their lord was fallen to the earth dead! (Judges 3:25)**
- **As for Ehud, he escaped while they were lingering, and he himself passed by the quarries and made his escape to Seirah. (Judges 3:26)**
- **In the past, most geographers favored Khirbet en-Nitleh as the possible location of Gilgal. However, particularly since 1931 C.E, Khirbet El Mafjir has been suggested.**
- **Its position, 2 kilometers (1 mile) Northeast of ancient Jericho Tell es-Sultan, Tel Yeriho, corresponds more closely to early literary references, such as those of Josephus and Eusebius, about the distance from Jericho to Gilgal.**
- **Then, too, archaeological excavation at Khirbet en-Nitleh has provided no evidence of pre-Common Era habitation. On the other hand, superficial explorations in the vicinity of Khirbet El Mafjir have**

yielded earthenware fragments that indicate the presence of some kind of settlement centuries before the **Common Era**.

- Although this site does not lie due East of ancient Jericho, the Biblical designation eastern border of Jericho may include the Northeast.
- Gilgal was the site of Israel's first encampment after crossing the Jordan in Abib or Nisan of **1473 B.C.E.** Here, in commemoration of Yehowah's drying up the waters of the Jordan to permit Israel to cross, Joshua set up the 12 stones taken from the middle of the riverbed.
- Accordingly the sons of Israel did so, just as Joshua had commanded, and they took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as Yehowah had stated to Joshua, to correspond with the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel, and they went taking them over with them to the lodging place and depositing them there. (**Joshua 4:8**)
- And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and took up camping at **Gilgal** on the eastern border of Jericho. (**Joshua 4:19**)
- As for the twelve stones that they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set these up at **Gilgal**. (**Joshua 4:20**)
- And he went on to say to the sons of Israel; When your sons ask their fathers in time to come, saying; What do these stones mean? (**Joshua 4:21**)
- You must then let your sons know, saying; On the dry land it was that Israel passed over this Jordan. (**Joshua 4:22**)
- When Yehowah your God dried up the waters of the Jordan from before them until they had passed over, just as Yehowah your God had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up from before us until we had passed over. (**Joshua 4:23**)
- In order, that all the peoples of the earth may know Yehowah's hand, that it is strong, in order, that you may indeed fear Yehowah your God always. (**Joshua 4:24**)
- At **Gilgal** all the Israelite males born in the wilderness were circumcised, Yehowah afterward saying that he, rolled away the

reproach of Egypt from off them. The site was then given the name **Gilgal**, meaning Rolling, Rolling Away, to serve as a reminder of this.

- And it came about that when they had completed circumcising all the nation, they kept sitting in their place in the camp until they revived. (**Joshua 5:8**)
- Then Yehowah said to Joshua; Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. So the name of that place came to be called **Gilgal** until this day. (**Joshua 5:9**)
- Later, disguised Gibeonites from the hill country to the West came down to the Jordan Valley and approached Joshua at **Gilgal**, entering into a covenant with Israel.
- And the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai. (**Joshua 9:3**)
- So they, even of their own accord, acted with shrewdness and went and stocked themselves with provisions and took worn-out sacks for their asses, and wine skin-bottles worn out and burst and tied up. (**Joshua 9:4**)
- And worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out garments upon themselves, and all the bread of their provisions proved to be dry and crumby. (**Joshua 9:5**)
- Then they went to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel; It is from a distant land that we have come. And now conclude a covenant with us. (**Joshua 9:6**)
- At this the men of Israel said to the Hivites; Perhaps it is in our vicinity that you are dwelling. So how could we conclude a covenant with you? (**Joshua 9:7**)
- In turn they said to Joshua; We are your servants. (**Joshua 9:8**)
- Then Joshua said to them; Who are you, and where do you come from?
- At this they said to him; It is from a very distant land that your servants have come in regard to the name of Yehowah your God, because we have heard of his fame and of all that he did in Egypt. (**Joshua 9:9**)

- And of all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, namely, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan, who was in Ashtaroth. **(Joshua 9:10)**
- Hence our older men and all the inhabitants of our land said this to us, Take provisions in your hands for the journey and go to meet them, and you must say to them; We are your servants. And now conclude a covenant with us. **(Joshua 9:11)**
- This bread of ours, it was hot when we took it as our provisions out of our houses on the day of our going out to come here to you, and now, look! It is dry and has become crumbly. **(Joshua 9:12)**
- And these are the wine skin-bottles that we filled new, and, look! They have burst, and these garments and sandals of ours, they have worn out because of the great length of the journey. **(Joshua 9:13)**
- Upon that the men took some of their provisions, and at the mouth of Yehowah they did not inquire. **(Joshua 9:14)**
- When the Gibeonites afterward came under attack, Joshua's army made an all-night march from **Gilgal** up to their city to rout the league of five Amorite kings.
- And it came about that as soon as Adonizedek the king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and then devoted it to destruction, that just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king, and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were continuing in their midst. **(Joshua 10:1)**
- He became very much afraid, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty ones. **(Joshua 10:2)**
- Consequently Adoni-zedek the king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham the king of Hebron and to Piram the king of Jarmuth and to Japhia the king of Lachish and to Debir the king of Eglon, saying; **(Joshua 10:3)**

- **Come up to me and help me and let us strike Gibeon, because it has made peace with Joshua and the sons of Israel. (Joshua 10:4)**
- **At this they gathered together and went on up, five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, these and all their camps, and they proceeded to camp against Gibeon and to war against it. (Joshua 10:5)**
- **Upon that the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying; Do not let your hand relax from your slaves. Come up to us quickly and do save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites inhabiting the mountainous region have collected together against us. (Joshua 10:6)**
- **So Joshua went on up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant mighty men. (Joshua 10:7)**
- **Then Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid of them, for into your hand I have given them. Not a man of them will stand against you. (Joshua 10:8)**
- **And Joshua proceeded to come against them by surprise. All night long he had gone up from Gilgal. (Joshua 10:9)**
- **And Yehowah went throwing them into confusion before Israel, and they began to slay them with a great slaughter at Gibeon and went pursuing them by way of the ascent of Bethhoron and slaying them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. (Joshua 10:10)**
- **And it came about that while they were fleeing from before Israel and were on the descent of Beth-horon, Yehowah hurled great stones from the heavens upon them as far as Azekah, so that they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. (Joshua 10:11)**
- **It was then that Joshua proceeded to speak to Yehowah on the day of Yehowah's abandoning the Amorites to the sons of Israel, and he went on to say before the eyes of Israel; Sun, be motionless over Gibeon, and, moon, over the low plain of Aijalon. (Joshua 10:12)**

- Accordingly the sun kept motionless, and the moon did stand still, until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun kept standing still in the middle of the heavens and did not hasten to set for about a whole day. (**Joshua 10:13**)
- And no day has proved to be like that one, either before it or after it, in that Yehowah listened to the voice of a man, for Yehowah himself was fighting for Israel. (**Joshua 10:14**)
- After that Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal. (**Joshua 10:15**)
- The distribution of the land of Canaan proceeded initially from Gilgal
- Then the sons of Judah approached Joshua in **Gilgal**, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him; You yourself well know the word that Yehowah spoke to Moses the man of the true God with regard to me and with regard to you at Kadesh-barnea. (**Joshua 14:6**)
- But the mountainous region should become yours. Because it is a forest, you must cut it down, and it must become the termination point for you. For you should drive away the Canaanites, although they have war chariots with iron scythes and they are strong. (**Joshua 17:18**)
- And was completed from Shiloh.
- Then all the assembly of the sons of Israel were congregated at Shiloh, and they proceeded to locate the tent of meeting there, as the land was now subdued before them. (**Joshua 18:1**)
- These cities came to be each a city together with its pasture ground all around it, thus as to all these cities. (**Joshua 21:42**)
- Yehowah's angel is reported to have gone, from **Gilgal** to Bochim.
- Then Yehowah's angel went up from **Gilgal** to Bochim and said; I proceeded to bring you up out of Egypt and to bring you into the land about which I swore to your forefathers. Furthermore, I said; Never shall I break my covenant with you. (**Judges 2:1**)

- This may allude to the angelic appearance near **Gilgal** shortly after Israel had crossed the Jordan.
- And the sons of Israel continued to camp in **Gilgal**, and they proceeded to carry out the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, on the desert plains of Jericho. (**Joshua 5:10**)
- And they began to eat some of the yield of the land the day after the Passover, unfermented cakes and roasted grains, on this same day. (**Joshua 5:11**)
- Then the manna ceased on the following day when they had eaten some of the yield of the land, and manna did not occur anymore for the sons of Israel, and they began to eat some of the produce of the land of Canaan in that year. (**Joshua 5:12**)
- And it came about when Joshua happened to be by Jericho that he proceeded to raise his eyes and look, and there, there was a man standing in front of him with his drawn sword in his hand. So Joshua walked up to him and said to him; Are you for us or for our adversaries? (**Joshua 5:13**)
- To this he said; No, but I, as prince of the army of Yehowah I have now come. With that Joshua fell on his face to the earth and prostrated himself and said to him; What is my lord saying to his servant? (**Joshua 5:14**)
- And therefore suggests that the same angel appeared at Bochim.
- It is uncertain whether it was **Gilgal** near the Jordan or **GILGAL 2** below, that was included on Samuel's annual circuit.
- And Samuel kept on judging Israel all the days of his life. (**1 Samuel 7:15**)
- And he traveled from year to year and made the circuit of Bethel and Gilgal and Mizpah and judged Israel at all these places. (**1 Samuel 7:16**)
- There he offered sacrifices after Saul's anointing.
- Samuel then took the flask of oil and poured it out upon his head and kissed him and said; Is it not because Yehowah has



- anointed you as a leader over his inheritance? (**1 Samuel 10:1**)
- **And you must go down ahead of me to Gilgal, and, look! I am going down to you to offer up burnt sacrifices, to render up communion sacrifices. Seven days you should keep waiting until my coming to you, and I shall certainly let you know what you should do. (1 Samuel 10:8)**
  - **And, along with the people, renewed Saul's kingship.**
  - **Later Samuel said to the people; Come and let us go to Gilgal that we may there make the kingship anew. (1 Samuel 11:14)**
  - **So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they proceeded to make Saul king before Yehowah in Gilgal. Then they rendered up communion sacrifices there before Yehowah, and there Saul and all the men of Israel continued rejoicing to a great degree. (1 Samuel 11:15)**
  - **While Philistine forces were massing up in the hill country around Michmash, King Saul was down in the Jordan Valley at Gilgal. Fearful that the enemy would sweep down upon him, Saul presumptuously offered up a burnt sacrifice.**
  - **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)**
  - **And the Philistines, for their part, collected themselves together to fight against Israel, thirty thousand war chariots and six thousand horsemen and people like the grains of sand that are upon the seashore for multitude, and they went their way up and began camping in Michmash to the east of Beth-aven. (1 Samuel 13:5)**
  - **And the men of Israel themselves saw that they were in sore straits, because the people were hard pressed, and the people went hiding themselves in the caves and the hollows and the crags and the vaults and the waterpits. (1 Samuel 13:6)**
  - **Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. But Saul himself was yet in Gilgal, and all the people trembled while following him. (1 Samuel 13:7)**

- And he continued waiting for seven days to the appointed time that Samuel had said, and Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. (**1 Samuel 13:8**)
- Finally Saul said; Bring near to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices. With that he went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:9**)
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished offering up the burnt sacrifice, why, there was Samuel coming in. So Saul went out to meet him and bless him. (**1 Samuel 13:10**)
- Then Samuel said; What is it you have done? To this Saul said; I saw that the people had been dispersed from me, and you, you did not come within the appointed days, and the Philistines were being collected together at Michmash. (**1 Samuel 13:11**)
- So I said to myself, Now the Philistines will come down against me at **Gilgal**, and the face of Yehowah I have not softened. So I compelled myself and went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:12**)
- At this Samuel said to Saul; You have acted foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Yehowah your God that he commanded you, because, if you had, Yehowah would have made your kingdom firm over Israel to time indefinite. (**1 Samuel 13:13**)
- And now your kingdom will not last. Yehowah will certainly find for himself a man agreeable to his heart, and Yehowah will commission him as a leader over his people, because you did not keep what Yehowah commanded you. (**1 Samuel 13:14**)
- 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**)
- It was also at Gilgal that Saul was told of Yehowah's rejection of him as king because of his failure to obey Yehowah's command to devote all the Amalekites and their flocks and herds to destruction.
- Then Samuel got up early to meet Saul in the morning. But

report was made to Samuel, saying; Saul came to Carmel, and, look! He was erecting a monument for himself, and he then turned around and went across and descended to **Gilgal**. (**1 Samuel 15:12**)

- At length Samuel came to Saul, and Saul began to say to him; Blessed are you of Yehowah. I have carried out the word of Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 15:13**)
- But Samuel said; Then what does this sound of the flock in my ears mean, and the sound of the herd that I am hearing? (**1 Samuel 15:14**)
- To this Saul said; From the Amalekites they have brought them, because the people had compassion upon the best of the flock and of the herd, for the purpose of sacrificing to Yehowah your God, but what was left over we have devoted to destruction. (**1 Samuel 15:15**)
- At this Samuel said to Saul; Stop! And I will tell you what Yehowah spoke to me last night. So he said to him; Speak! (**1 Samuel 15:16**)
- And Samuel went on to say; Was it not when you were little in your own eyes that you were head of the tribes of Israel, and Yehowah proceeded to anoint you as king over Israel? (**1 Samuel 15:17**)
- Later Yehowah sent you on a mission and said; Go, and you must devote the sinners, the Amalekites, to destruction, and you must fight against them until you will have exterminated them. (**1 Samuel 15:18**)
- So why is it you did not obey the voice of Yehowah but went darting greedily at the spoil and doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah? (**1 Samuel 15:19**)
- However, Saul said to Samuel; But I have obeyed the voice of Yehowah in that I went on the mission on which Yehowah had sent me and I brought Agag the king of Amalek, but Amalek I have devoted to destruction. (**1 Samuel 15:20**)
- And the people went taking from the spoil sheep and cattle, the choicest of them as something devoted to destruction, to

sacrifice to Yehowah your God in Gilgal. (1 Samuel 15:21)

- In turn Samuel said; Does Yehowah have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yehowah? Look! To obey is better than a sacrifice, to pay attention than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)
- For rebelliousness is the same as the sin of divination, and pushing ahead presumptuously the same as using uncanny power and teraphim. Since you have rejected the word of Yehowah, he accordingly rejects you from being king. (1 Samuel 15:23)
- Then Saul said to Samuel; I have sinned. For I have overstepped the order of Yehowah and your words, because I feared the people and so obeyed their voice. (1 Samuel 15:24)
- And now, please, pardon my sin and return with me that I may prostrate myself to Yehowah. (1 Samuel 15:25)
- But Samuel said to Saul; I shall not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Yehowah, and Yehowah rejects you from continuing as king over Israel. (1 Samuel 15:26)
- As Samuel was turning about to go, he immediately grabbed hold of the skirt of his sleeveless coat, but it ripped away. (1 Samuel 15:27)
- At this Samuel said to him; Yehowah has ripped away the royal rule of Israel from off you today, and he will certainly give it to a fellowman of yours who is better than you. (1 Samuel 15:28)
- After Absalom's revolt failed, the men of Judah came to Gilgal to conduct David across the Jordan.
- And the king began to go back and got to come as far as the Jordan. As for Judah, they came to Gilgal to go and meet the king, to conduct the king across the Jordan. (2 Samuel 19:15)
- When the king went across to Gilgal, Chimham himself crossed with him, and also all the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, that they might bring the king across. (2 Samuel 19:40)

- Through the prophet Micah, Yehowah reminded his people of his blessings upon them. From Shittim, to **Gilgal**, he had blocked the Moabite effort to corrupt them, had brought Israel across the Jordan, and had rolled away the reproach of Egypt. But Israel failed to discern these righteous acts of Yehowah.
- O my people, remember, please, what Balak the king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him. From Shittim it was, all the way to **Gilgal**, to the intent that the righteous acts of Yehowah might be known. (**Micah 6:5**)
- Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)
- **Gilgal** may possibly be also known as Geliloth.

#### **See Also GELILOTH**

- The postexilic **Beth-gilgal** may be the same as the **Gilgal** near Jericho or **GILGAL 2**
- And the sons of the singers proceeded to gather themselves even from the District, from all around Jerusalem and from the settlements of the Netophathites. (**Nehemiah 12:28**)
- And from Beth-gilgal and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for there were settlements that the singers had built for themselves all around Jerusalem. (**Nehemiah 12:29**)