

## **~HAZAZON-TAMAR (72)**

**(Haz'a-zon-ta'mar) [Gravel or Slope of the Palm Tree]**

- A city inhabited by Amorites and apparently located in the vicinity of the Low Plain of Siddim. King Chedorlaomer and his allies defeated the Amorites dwelling in **Hazazon-tamar**.
- And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (**Genesis 14:5**)
- And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to Elparan, which is at the wilderness. (**Genesis 14:6**)
- Then they turned about and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and defeated the whole field of the Amalekites and also the Amorites who were dwelling in **Hazazon-tamar**. (**Genesis 14:7**)
- At this point the king of Sodom went on the march, and also the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar, and they drew up in battle order against them in the Low Plain of Siddim. (**Genesis 14:8**)
- Centuries later the combined forces of Moab, Ammon, and the mountainous region of Seir came against Judah by way of **Hazazon-tamar**, that is to say; En-gedi.
- So people came and told Jehoshaphat, saying; There has come against you a large crowd from the region of the sea, from Edom, and there they are in **Hazazon-tamar**, that is to say; En-gedi. (**2 Chronicles 20:2**)
- And now here the sons of Ammon, and Moab and the mountainous region of Seir, whom you did not allow Israel to invade when they were coming out of the land of Egypt, but they turned away from them and did not annihilate them. (**2 Chronicles 20:10**)
- Yes, here they are rewarding us by coming in to drive us out from your possession that you caused us to possess. (**2 Chronicles**

## 20:11)

- Many scholars believe that the Genesis reference points to a location some distance South of En-gedi and therefore regard the words that is to say; En-gedi, as a late addition.
- The name **Hazazon-tamar**, however, appears to be preserved in the Wadi HAsa'sa, Nahal Hazon, about 10 kilometers (6 miles) North of the suggested site of En-gedi.
- Also, the meaning of **Hazazon-tamar** would fit the En-gedi region, described by Josephus as a place where the finest palm-trees are grown. [*Jewish Antiquities*, IX, 7, i, 2]
- So if the Genesis passage refers to a more southerly location, possibly there were two places called **Hazazon-tamar**, the one linked with En-gedi, the other perhaps the site Southwest of the Dead Sea that is called simply **Tamar**.
- And the southern side is to the south, from **Tamar** to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, the torrent valley to the Great Sea. This is the side to the south, toward the Negeb. (*Ezekiel 47:19*)
- And by the boundary of Gad, to the southern border, it will be southward, and the boundary must prove to be from **Tamar** to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the torrent valley, as far as the Great Sea. (*Ezekiel 48:28*)