

## ~HINNOM, VALLEY OF (385)

[Greek, *Ge'en-na*]

- A valley located on the South and Southwest of Jerusalem, it runs South from the vicinity of the modern Jaffa Gate, turns sharply East at the Southwest corner of the city, and runs along the South to meet the Tyropoeon and Kidron valleys at a point near the city's Southeast corner. It is also known as the valley of the son(s) of Hinnom, the Valley, as in the expression Valley Gate.
- And the boundary went up to the **valley of the son of Hinnom** to the slope of the Jebusite at the south, that is to say; Jerusalem, and the boundary went up to the top of the mountain that faces the valley of Hinnom to the west, which is at the extremity of the low plain of Rephaim to the north. (**Joshua 15:8**)
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the **valley of the sons of Hinnom**, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (**2 Kings 23:10**)
- The Valley Gate was what Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired, they themselves built it and then set up its doors, its bolts and its bars, also a thousand cubits in the wall as far as the Gate of the Ash-heaps. (**Nehemiah 3:13**)
- Possibly the low plain of the carcasses and of the fatty ashes at;
- And all the low plain of the carcasses and of the fatty ashes, and all the terraces as far as the torrent valley of Kidron, clear to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the sunrising, will be something holy to Yehowah. It will not be uprooted, neither will it be torn down anymore to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 31:40**)
- The individual after whom the valley may have been named is unknown, as is also the meaning of the name **Hinnom**.
- At the point just above **Hinnom's** convergence with the Tyropoeon and Kidron valleys, it widens out. Here was probably the location of Topheth.
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of **Hinnom**, that no one might make his son or his

daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (**2 Kings 23:10**)

- On the South side of the valley near its eastern extremity is the traditional site of Akeldama, the Field of Blood, the potter's field purchased with Judas 30 pieces of silver.
- Then Judas, who betrayed him, seeing he had been condemned, felt remorse and turned the thirty silver pieces back to the chief priests and older men. (**Matthew 27:3**)
- Saying; I sinned when I betrayed righteous blood. They said; What is that to us? You must see to that! (**Matthew 27:4**)
- So he threw the silver pieces into the temple and withdrew, and went off and hanged himself. (**Matthew 27:5**)
- But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said; It is not lawful to drop them into the sacred treasury, because they are the price of blood. (**Matthew 27:6**)
- After consulting together, they bought with them the potter's field to bury strangers. (**Matthew 27:7**)
- Therefore that field has been called, **Field of Blood**, to this very day. (**Matthew 27:8**)
- Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying; And they took the thirty silver pieces, the price upon the man that was priced, the one on whom some of the sons of Israel set a price. (**Matthew 27:9**)
- And they gave them for the potter's field, according to what Yehowah had commanded me. (**Matthew 27:10**)
- This very man, therefore, purchased a field with the wages for unrighteousness, and pitching head foremost he noisily burst in his midst and all his intestines were poured out. (**Acts of Apostles 1:18**)
- It also became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their language *Akeldama*, that is, **Field of Blood**. (**Acts of Apostles 1:19**)

- Farther up, the valley is quite narrow and deep, with many sepulcher chambers in its terraced cliffs.
- The **Valley of Hinnom** formed a part of the boundary between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, Judah's territory being to the South, placing Jerusalem in Benjamin's territory, as outlined at
- And the lot of the tribe of the sons of Judah by their families came to be to the boundary of Edom, the wilderness of Zin, to the Negeb at its southern end. (**Joshua 15:1**)
- And the boundary went up to the valley of the son of Hinnom to the slope of the Jebusite at the south, that is to say; Jerusalem, and the boundary went up to the top of the mountain that faces the valley of Hinnom to the west, which is at the extremity of the low plain of Rephaim to the north. (**Joshua 15:8**)
- And the boundary went down to the extremity of the mountain that faces the valley of the son of **Hinnom**, which is in the low plain of Rephaim to the north, and it went down to the **valley of Hinnom**, to the slope of the Jebusite on the south, and went down to En-rogel. (**Joshua 18:16**)
- The valley is now known as the **Wadi er-Rababi**.
- Apostate King Ahaz of Judah made sacrificial smoke and burned his son(s) in the fire in this valley.
- Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in Yehowah's eyes like David his forefather. (**2 Chronicles 28:1**)
- But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the Baals. (**2 Chronicles 28:2**)
- And he himself made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom and proceeded to burn up his sons in the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 28:3**)
- His grandson King Manasseh exceeded Ahaz, promoting wickedness on a grand scale, also making his own sons pass through the fire in the **valley of the son of Hinnom**.

- Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:1)
- And he himself made his own sons pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and practiced magic and used divination and practiced sorcery and made spiritistic mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a grand scale what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (2 Chronicles 33:6)
- And Manasseh kept seducing Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do worse than the nations that Yehowah had annihilated from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:9)
- King Josiah, Manasseh's grandson, put an end to this detestable practice in Topheth by defiling the place, desecrating it, thereby making it unfit for worship, possibly by scattering bones or refuse therein.
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (2 Kings 23:10)
- Jeremiah, who prophesied in the days of Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, expressed Yehowah's judgment for the sins of the nation, one of the foremost being the abominable sacrifice of their children to Molech.
- He was commanded to take some of the older men of the people and the priests out the Gate of the Potsherds, Gate of the Ash-heaps, located at the Southeast corner of Jerusalem, to the Valley of Hinnom in the area of Topheth.
- There he declared Yehowah's pronouncement. Look! there are days coming when this place will be called no more Topheth and the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the killing.
- Then, smashing an earthenware flask before their eyes, he continued with Yehowah's judgment; In the same way I shall break this people and this city and in Topheth they will bury until there is no more place to bury.
- This is what Yehowah said; Go, and you must get an

earthenware flask of a potter and some of the older men of the people and some of the older men of the priests. (**Jeremiah 19:1**)

- And you must go out to the **valley of the son of Hinnom**, which is at the entrance of the Gate of the Potsherds. And there you must proclaim the words that I shall speak to you. (**Jeremiah 19:2**)
- Therefore, look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, when this place will be called no more Topheth and the **valley of the son of Hinnom**, but the **valley of the killing**. (**Jeremiah 19:6**)
- And you must break the flask before the eyes of the men who are going with you. (**Jeremiah 19:10**)
- And you must say to them; This is what Yehowah of armies has said; In the same way I shall break this people and this city as someone breaks the vessel of the potter so that it is no more able to be repaired, and in Topheth they will bury until there is no more place to bury. (**Jeremiah 19:11**)
- In other words, the slaughter, not of sacrificial victims to Molech, but of the wicked by God's judgment, would be so great that some bodies would lie unburied in the valley. This would pollute it to an even greater degree than Josiah had done.
- Jeremiah's prophetic words do not necessarily mean that such sacrifices to Molech were still going on in Jeremiah's time, but that Yehowah would punish the nation for their practices, past as well as present, and for the innocent blood shed by them, particularly the human sacrifices during Manasseh's reign.
- The prophet, in another pronouncement, told the nation that they would be punished for what Manasseh had done.
- And I will give them for a quaking to all the kingdoms of the earth on account of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 15:4**)
- Nevertheless, Yehowah did not turn back from the great burning of his anger, with which his anger burned against Judah over all the offensive things with which Manasseh had made them offend. (**2 Kings 23:26**)

- For the sons of Israel and the sons of Judah have proved to be mere doers of what was bad in my eyes, from their youth on up, for the sons of Israel are even offending me by the work of their hands, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 32:30**)
- For this city, from the day that they built it, clear down to this day, has proved to be nothing but a cause of anger in me and a cause of rage in me, in order to remove it from before my face. (**Jeremiah 32:31**)
- On account of all the badness of the sons of Israel and of the sons of Judah that they have done to offend me, they, their kings, their princes, their priests and their prophets, and the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 32:32**)
- And they kept turning to me the back and not the face, though there was a teaching of them, a rising up early and teaching, but there were none of them listening to receive discipline. (**Jeremiah 32:33**)
- And they went putting their disgusting things in the house upon which my own name has been called, in order to defile it. (**Jeremiah 32:34**)
- Furthermore, they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of the son of **Hinnom**, in order to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to Molech, a thing that I did not command them, neither did it come up into my heart to do this detestable thing, for the purpose of making Judah sin. (**Jeremiah 32:35**)
- Also, Jeremiah's declaration at;
- And you must say; Hear the word of Yehowah, O you kings of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon this place, of which when anyone hears, his ears will tingle. (**Jeremiah 19:3**)
- Is parallel to the statement at;
- That is why this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, of which if anyone hears both his ears will tingle. (**2 Kings 21:12**)

- However, in Jeremiah's day the people certainly were carrying on with idolatries, which gave evidence that they had not repented in the least for the gross sins they shared in during Manasseh's reign. At

- How can you say; I have not defiled myself. After the Baals I have not walked? See your way in the valley. Take note of what you have done. A swift young she-camel aimlessly running to and fro in her ways. ([Jeremiah 2:23](#))

- It may be **Hinnom** that Jeremiah refers to in calling Judah's attention to their idolatrous sins.

- The gates in Jerusalem's wall that were situated on the Valley of Hinnom were, probably, the Corner Gate at the city's Northwest corner, the Valley Gate at its Southwest corner, and the Gate of the Potsherds near the point where the Valley of Hinnom joined the Tyropoeon and Kidron valleys.

- And it was Amaziah the king of Judah the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah that Jehoash the king of Israel captured at Beth-shemesh, after which they came to Jerusalem and he made a breach in the wall of Jerusalem at the Gate of Ephraim clear to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. ([2 Kings 14:13](#))

- And I proceeded to go out by the Valley Gate by night and in front of the Fountain of the Big Snake and to the Gate of the Ash-heaps, and I was constantly examining the walls of Jerusalem, how they were broken down and the gates of it had been eaten up by fire. ([Nehemiah 2:13](#))

- Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall. Further, I appointed two large thanksgiving choirs and processions, and the one was walking to the right upon the wall to the Gate of the Ash-heaps. ([Nehemiah 12:31](#))

- And you must go out to the valley of the son of **Hinnom**, which is at the entrance of the Gate of the Potsherds. And there you must proclaim the words that I shall speak to you. ([Jeremiah 19:2](#))

- Between the Corner Gate and the Valley Gate, the sides of the **Valley of Hinnom** are so steep as to make impractical the location of other gates along this portion of Jerusalem's wall. King Uzziah built

**towers by the Corner Gate and the Valley Gate, inasmuch as these would be the more vulnerable places along this part of the valley.**

- **Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem by the Corner Gate and by the Valley Gate and by the Buttress, and made them strong. (2 Chronicles 26:9)**
- **It was in this valley to the South of Jerusalem that Nehemiah made his night inspection tour, examining the city wall eastward from the Valley Gate to the Gate of the Ash-heaps, turning up the Kidron for a distance and then back to reenter the city by the Valley Gate.**
- **And I proceeded to go out by the Valley Gate by night and in front of the Fountain of the Big Snake and to the Gate of the Ash-heaps, and I was constantly examining the walls of Jerusalem, how they were broken down and the gates of it had been eaten up by fire. (Nehemiah 2:13)**
- **And I went passing along to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, and there was no place for the domestic animal under me to pass along. (Nehemiah 2:14)**
- **But I kept on ascending in the torrent valley by night, and I kept on examining the wall, after which I came back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so got back. (Nehemiah 2:15)**
- **In Nehemiah's time the **Valley of Hinnom** apparently marked the northern limits of the settlements of the sons of Judah, aside from those dwelling in Jerusalem.**
- **And as regards the settlements in their fields, there were some of the sons of Judah that dwelt in Kiriath-arba and its dependent towns and in Dibon and its dependent towns and in Jekabzeel and its settlements. (Nehemiah 11:25)**
- **Zanoah, Adullam and their settlements, Lachish and its fields, Azekah and its dependent towns. And they took up camping from Beer-sheba clear to the **valley of Hinnom**. (Nehemiah 11:30)**
- **In the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, the **Valley of Hinnom** is referred to by the equivalent **Greek** term *Ge'en-na*.**
- **However, I say to you that everyone who continues wrathful with his brother will be accountable to the court of justice, but**



whoever addresses his brother with an unspeakable word of contempt will be accountable to the Supreme Court, whereas whoever says, You despicable fool! Will be liable to the fiery Gehenna. ([Matthew 5:22](#))

- And if your eye makes you stumble, throw it away, it is finer for you to enter one-eyed into the kingdom of God than with two eyes to be pitched into Gehenna. ([Mark 9:47](#))

**See Also GEHENNA**