

**~KIDRON, TORRENT VALLEY OF (161)**  
**(Kid'ron) [possibly from a root meaning be dark]**

- A deep valley that separates Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and runs first southeastward and then southward along the city. Waterless even in winter, except in case of an especially heavy rain, the **Kidron Valley**, **Nahal Qidron**, starts some distance to the North of Jerusalem's walls.
- At first a broad and shallow valley, it continues to narrow and deepen. By the time it is opposite the former temple area, it is approximately 30 meters (100 feet) deep and 120 meters (390 feet) wide. Farther to the South the **Kidron Valley** was joined by the Tyropoeon Valley and the Valley of Hinnom respectively.
- From then on it continued southeastward across the arid Wilderness of Judah to the Dead Sea. The modern name applied to the valleys lower course is **Wadi en-Nar**, meaning **Fire Wadi**, indicating that it is hot and dry most of the time.
- Opposite Jerusalem, rock-cut tombs occupy the steep and rocky slopes of the valleys East side. On its West side, about midway between the former temple area and the junction of the Tyropoeon and **Kidron valleys**, is the spring of Gihon.
- Not far from this spring the **Kidron Valley** widens and forms an open space. It has been suggested that this open area may correspond to the ancient **king's garden**.
- And the city got to be breached, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the **king's garden**, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and the king began to go in the direction of the Arabah.  
**(2 Kings 25:4)**

**See Also GIHON 2**

- King David, when fleeing from rebellious Absalom, crossed the **Kidron Valley** on foot.
- At once David said to all his servants that were with him in Jerusalem; Get up, and let us run away, for there will prove to be

no escaping for us because of Absalom! Go hurriedly, for fear he may hurry up and actually catch up with us and bring down upon us what is bad and strike the city with the edge of the sword! (2 Samuel 15:14)

- And all the people of the land were weeping with a loud voice, and all the people were crossing over, and the king was standing by the torrent valley of **Kidron**, and all the people were crossing over upon the open road to the wilderness. (2 Samuel 15:23)
- And David was going up by the ascent of the Olives, weeping as he went up, with his head covered, and he was walking barefoot, and all the people that were with him covered each one his head, and they went up weeping as they went up. (2 Samuel 15:30)
- For cursing David on that occasion, Shimei was later restricted by Solomon to Jerusalem and was not permitted to cross the Kidron Valley under pain of death.
- And here there is with you Shimei the son of Gera the Benjaminite from Bahurim, and he it was that called down evil upon me with a painful malediction on the day that I was going to Mahanaim, and he it was that came down to meet me at the Jordan, so that I swore to him by Yehowah, saying; I shall not put you to death by the sword. (1 Kings 2:8)
- And now do not leave him unpunished, for you are a wise man and you well know what you ought to do to him, and you must bring his gray hairs down to Sheol with blood. (1 Kings 2:9)
- Finally the king sent and called Shimei and said to him; Build yourself a house in Jerusalem, and you must dwell there and not go out from there to this place and that. (1 Kings 2:36)
- And it must occur that on the day of your going out and when you do pass over the torrent valley of **Kidron**, you should unmistakably know that you will positively die. Bloodguilt for you will itself come to be upon your own head. (1 Kings 2:37)
- It was this same valley that Jesus traversed on his way to the garden of Gethsemane.
- Having said these things, Jesus went out with his disciples across the winter torrent of Kidron to where there was a garden, and he

and his disciples entered into it. (**John 18:1**)

- During the reigns of Judean Kings Asa, Hezekiah, and Josiah, the **Kidron Valley** was used as a place of disposal for appendages of idolatry.
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, he went on to remove her from being lady, because she had made a horrible idol to the sacred pole, after which Asa cut down her horrible idol and burned it at the torrent valley of **Kidron**. (**1 Kings 15:13**)
- And the king went on to command Hilkiah the High Priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out from the temple of Yehowah all the utensils made for Baal and for the sacred pole and for all the army of the heavens. Then he burned them outside Jerusalem on the terraces of **Kidron**, and he brought the dust of them to Bethel. (**2 Kings 23:4**)
- Furthermore, he brought out the sacred pole from the house of Yehowah to the outskirts of Jerusalem, to the torrent **valley of Kidron**, and burned it in the torrent valley of Kidron and ground it to dust and cast its dust upon the burial place of the sons of the people. (**2 Kings 23:6**)
- And the altars that were upon the roof of the roof chamber of Ahaz that the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah, the king pulled down, after which he crushed them there, and he cast their dust into the torrent valley of **Kidron**. (**2 Kings 23:12**)
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, Asa the king himself removed her from being lady, because she had made a horrible idol for the sacred pole, and then Asa cut down her horrible idol and pulverized it and burned it in the torrent valley of Kidron. (**2 Chronicles 15:16**)
- The priests now came inside the house of Yehowah to do the cleansing and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of Yehowah to the courtyard of the house of Yehowah. In turn the Levites received it to take it out to the torrent valley of Kidron outside. (**2 Chronicles 29:16**)
- Then they rose up and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the incense altars they removed and then

threw them into the torrent valley of Kidron. (2 Chronicles 30:14)

- It also served as a place of burial.
- Furthermore, he brought out the sacred pole from the house of Yehowah to the outskirts of Jerusalem, to the torrent valley of **Kidron**, and burned it in the torrent **valley of Kidron** and ground it to dust and cast its dust upon the burial place of the sons of the people. (2 Kings 23:6)
- This made the **Kidron Valley** an unclean area, and it is therefore significant that Jeremiah's prophecy pointed to a time when, by contrast, all the terraces as far as the torrent **valley of Kidron** would be something holy to Yehowah.
- 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)