

~LEHI (86)

(Le'hi) [Jawbone][Hebrew, *la-chai-yah'*, Greek, *si-a-gon'*]

- The scene of one or, possibly, two Israelite victories over the Philistines. Its exact location is unknown today. Some identify it with **Khirbet es-Siyyaj**, which perhaps derives its name from the Greek word *si-a-gon'*, jawbone, less than 3 kilometers (2 miles) East of Beth-shemesh.
- At **Lehi**, Samson struck down a thousand Philistines with the moist jawbone of an ass. Subsequently he called the site **Ramath-lehi**, meaning, **Lofty Place of the Jawbone**, probably to memorialize the victory Yehowah had given him there.
- Later the Philistines came up and camped in Judah and went tramping about in **Lehi**. (**Judges 15:9**)
- Then the men of Judah said; Why have you come up against us? To which they said; It is to tie Samson that we have come up, to do to him just as he has done to us. (**Judges 15:10**)
- So three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the crag Etam and said to Samson; Do you not know that the Philistines are ruling over us? So what does this mean that you have done to us? Then he said to them; Just as they did to me is the way I have done to them. (**Judges 15:11**)
- But they said to him; It is to tie you that we have come down, to give you into the hand of the Philistines. At that Samson said to them; Swear to me that you yourselves will not assault me. (**Judges 15:12**)
- And they went on to say to him; No, but we shall merely tie you, and we will give you into their hand, but we shall by no means put you to death. (**Judges 15:13**)

Accordingly they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up out of the crag.

- He, for his part, came as far as **Lehi**, and the Philistines, for their part, shouted exultantly at meeting him. And Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, and the ropes that were upon his

- arms came to be like linen threads that have been scorched with fire, so that his fetters melted off his hands. (**Judges 15:14**)
- He now found a moist jawbone of a male ass and thrust his hand out and took it and went striking down a thousand men with it. (**Judges 15:15**)
 - Then Samson said; With the jawbone of a male ass, one heap, two heaps! With the jawbone of a male ass I have struck down a thousand men. (**Judges 15:16**)
 - And it came about that when he finished speaking, he immediately threw the jawbone out of his hand and called that place **Ramath-lehi**. (**Judges 15:17**)
 - Now he became very thirsty, and he began to call on Yehowah and say; It was you that gave this great salvation into the hand of your servant, and now shall I die of thirst and must I fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? (**Judges 15:18**)
 - Originally, though, **Lehi** may have got its name from the shape of its crags.
 - Later, according to the rendering of numerous translators, Shammah struck down many Philistines assembled at **Lehi**. **AT, JB, NW, RS**
 - And next to him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines proceeded to gather themselves to **Lehi**, where there then happened to be a tract of the field full of lentils, and the people themselves fled because of the Philistines. (**2 Samuel 23:11**)
 - But he took his stand in the middle of the tract and delivered it and kept striking down the Philistines, so that Yehowah performed a great salvation. (**2 Samuel 23:12**)

However, the **Hebrew** term *la-chai-yah'*, literally means, **into a tent village**, and, by a slight change in vowel pointing, is rendered, **to Lehi**.