

~MARESHA H) 3 (89)
(Ma-re'shah) [Place at the Head Summit]

- One of a group of nine cities in the Shephelah region of Judah
- And Keilah and Achzib and Mareshah, nine cities and their settlements. (**Joshua 15:44**)
- Mareshah occupied a position of strategic importance beside one of the valleys forming a natural route from the coastal plain up into the mountains and to Hebron. It is identified with **Tell Sandahannah**, **Tel Maresha**, about 1.5 kilometers (1 miles) South of **Beit Jibrin**, **Bet Guvrin**.
- King Rehoboam, successor to Solomon, made a fortress city of **Mareshah**, thereby strengthening Judah's defense against attack from that avenue of approach.
- And Rehoboam continued to dwell in Jerusalem and proceeded to build fortified cities in Judah. (**2 Chronicles 11:5**)
- And Gath and **Mareshah** and Ziph. (**2 Chronicles 11:8**)
- Zerah the Ethiopian swept up from the South with his huge force of a million men and was met at **Mareshah** by the army of King Asa, and the battle, resulting in a Judean victory by divine assistance, was fought in that area. Asa pursued the defeated Ethiopian force about 35 kilometers (22 miles) to Gerar, Southwest of **Mareshah**.
- Later Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with a military force of a million men and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. (**2 Chronicles 14:9**)
- Then Asa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at **Mareshah**. (**2 Chronicles 14:10**)
- And Asa began to call to Yehowah his God and say; O Yehowah, as to helping, it does not matter with you whether there are many or those with no power. Help us, O Yehowah our God, for upon you we do lean, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Yehowah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man

retain strength against you. (2 Chronicles 14:11)

- At that Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians took to flight. (2 Chronicles 14:12)
- And Asa and the people that were with him kept pursuing them as far as Gerar, and those of the Ethiopians continued falling down till there was no one alive of them, for they were broken to pieces before Yehowah and before his camp. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil. (2 Chronicles 14:13)
- **Mareshah**, also **Maresha**, was the hometown of the prophet Eliezer, who correctly foretold the failure of King Jehoshaphat's joint maritime enterprise with Ahaziah of Israel.
- And after this Jehoshaphat the king of Judah had partnership with Ahaziah the king of Israel, who acted wickedly. (2 Chronicles 20:35)
- So he made him a partner with himself in making ships to go to Tarshish and they made ships in Ezion-geber. (2 Chronicles 20:36)
- However, Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of **Maresha** spoke prophetically against Jehoshaphat, saying; Inasmuch as you have had partnership with Ahaziah, Yehowah will certainly break down your works. Accordingly the ships were wrecked, and they did not retain strength to go to Tarshish. (2 Chronicles 20:37)
- Micah's prophecy, warning apostate Judah and Israel of impending punishment, makes specific reference to **Mareshah**.
- The dispossessor I shall yet bring to you, O inhabitress of **Mareshah**. As far as Adullam the glory of Israel will come. (Micah 1:15)
- In the postexilic period, **Mareshah** became known as **Maris** and continued to be a site of considerable importance, though it became a Sidonian colony and later an Idumean stronghold. It was finally destroyed by the Parthians in 40 B.C.E.