

~MEDEBA (166)
(Med'e-ba)

- This place is represented by modern **Madaba**, a town located on a low, gently sloping hill about 20 kilometers (12 miles) East of the northern end of the Dead Sea. The ancient **kings road** linked it with other cities East of the Jordan.
- Let us pass, please, through your land. We shall not pass through a field or a vineyard, and we shall not drink the water of a well. On the kings road we shall march. We shall not bend toward the right or the left, until we shall pass through your territory. (**Numbers 20:17**)
- **Madaba** is situated on a treeless but fertile plain, or plateau. In the plain, the tableland of **Medeba**, flocks of sheep and goats find pasturage.
- From Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland of **Medeba** as far as Dibon. (**Joshua 13:9**)
- And the territory came to be theirs from Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland by **Medeba**. (**Joshua 13:16**)
- After the Israelites defeated Amorite King Sihon, **Medeba** came to be in the territory given to the tribe of Reuben.
- With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites took their inheritance that Moses gave them on the side of the Jordan toward the east, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had given them. (**Joshua 13:8**)
- From Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland of **Medeba** as far as Dibon. (**Joshua 13:9**)
- Then Moses made a gift to the tribe of the sons of Reuben by their families. (**Joshua 13:15**)

- And the territory came to be theirs from Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland by **Medeba**. (**Joshua 13:16**)
- It appears that earlier the Amorites had taken **Medeba** from the Moabites.
- So Israel took all these cities, and Israel began dwelling in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and all its dependent towns. (**Numbers 21:25**)
- For Heshbon was the city of Sihon. He was the king of the Amorites, and it was he who fought with the king of Moab formerly and went taking all his land out of his hand as far as the Arnon. (**Numbers 21:26**)
- That is why the sayers of mock verses would say; Come to Heshbon. Let the city of Sihon be built and be proved firmly set up. (**Numbers 21:27**)
- For a fire has come out of Heshbon, a flame from the town of Sihon. It has consumed Ar of Moab, the owners of the high places of the Arnon. (**Numbers 21:28**)
- Woe to you, Moab! You will certainly perish, O people of Chemosh! He will certainly give his sons as escaped ones and his daughters in the captivity to the king of the Amorites, Sihon. (**Numbers 21:29**)
- So let us shoot at them. Heshbon will certainly perish up to Dibon; And the women up to Nophah, the men up to **Medeba**. (**Numbers 21:30**)
- Several centuries later, in a fight against the Ammonites, the army of King David under Joab's command defeated Aramaean or Syrian mercenary forces encamped before **Medeba**.
- In time the sons of Ammon saw that they had become foul-smelling to David, and Hanun and the sons of Ammon proceeded to send a thousand silver talents to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia and from Aram-maacah and from Zobah. (**1 Chronicles 19:6**)

- **Thus they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots and the king of Maacah and his people. Then they came in and camped before **Medeba**, and as for the sons of Ammon, they gathered together from their cities and now came in for the war. (1 Chronicles 19:7)**
- **When David heard of it, he immediately sent Joab and all the army and the mighty men. (1 Chronicles 19:8)**
- **And the sons of Ammon began to go out and draw up in battle formation at the entrance of the city, and the kings that had come were by themselves in the open field. (1 Chronicles 19:9)**
- **When Joab saw that the battle charges had come to be against him from the front and from the rear, he at once chose some of all the choice men in Israel and drew them up in formation to meet the Syrians. (1 Chronicles 19:10)**
- **And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of Abishai his brother, that they might draw up in formation to meet the sons of Ammon. (1 Chronicles 19:11)**
- **And he went on to say; If the Syrians become too strong for me, you must also serve as a salvation for me, but if the sons of Ammon themselves become too strong for you, I must also save you. (1 Chronicles 19:12)**
- **Be strong, that we may show ourselves courageous in behalf of our people and in behalf of the cities of our God, and as for Yehowah, what is good in his own eyes he will do. (1 Chronicles 19:13)**
- **Then Joab and the people that were with him advanced before the Syrians to the battle, and they took to flight from before him. (1 Chronicles 19:14)**
- **As for the sons of Ammon, they saw that the Syrians had fled, and they themselves also took to flight from before Abishai his brother and then came into the city. Later Joab came into Jerusalem. (1 Chronicles 19:15)**
- **When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated before Israel, they proceeded to send messengers and bring out the Syrians that were in the region of the River, with Shophach the chief of**

the army of Hadadezer before them. (1 Chronicles 19:16)

- According to the Moabite Stone on line 8, Israel's King Omri circa 951-941 B.C.E, took possession of the land of Mehedeba, Medeba. Line 30 of the same monument indicates that Moab's King Mesha rebuilt Medeba and other cities in the area.
- It may be, however, that the Israelites regained dominion over Medeba when Jeroboam II, circa 844-804 B.C.E, restored the boundary of Israel from the entering in of Hamath clear to the sea of the Arabah.
- He it was that restored the boundary of Israel from the entering in of Hamath clear to the sea of the Arabah, according to the word of Yehowah the God of Israel who spoke by means of his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet that was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:25)
- But this would not have been for long, since Isaiah's pronouncement, circa 778– 732 B.C.E, against Moab shows that Medeba was by then under the control of the Moabites and it was foretold that the Moabites would howl over the loss of the city.
- The pronouncement against Moab! Because in the night it has been despoiled, Ar of Moab itself has been silenced. Because in the night it has been despoiled, Kir of Moab itself has been silenced. (Isaiah 15:1)
- He has gone up to The House and to Dibon, to the high places, to a weeping. Over Nebo and over Medeba Moab itself howls. On all heads in it there is baldness, every beard is clipped. (Isaiah 15:2)