

~MIGDOL 1 (53) (Mig'dol) [Tower]

- An Egyptian site used as a reference point in describing the location of Israel's last encampment at Pihahiroth before crossing the Red Sea. They were to encamp before Pihahiroth between **Migdol** and the sea in view of Baal-zephon.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, that they should turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth between **Migdol** and the sea in view of Baal-zephon. In front of it you are to encamp by the sea. (**Exodus 14:2**)
- So the sons of Israel pulled away from Rameses and went camping in Succoth. (**Numbers 33:5**)
- Then they pulled away from Succoth and went camping in Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness. (**Numbers 33:6**)
- Next they pulled away from Etham and turned back toward Pihahiroth, which is in view of Baal-zephon, and they went camping before **Migdol**. (**Numbers 33:7**)
- After that they pulled away from Pihahiroth and went passing through the midst of the sea to the wilderness and kept marching a three-day journey in the wilderness of Etham and took up camping at Marah. (**Numbers 33:8**)
- Scholars generally hold that **Migdol** is likely an Egyptian pronunciation for the **Hebrew** *migh-dal'*, meaning, **tower**, and that it doubtless refers to **a military post or watchtower on the Egyptian border**.
- However, there is evidence that there were several such **Migdol's** along the Egyptian border, even today there are three different villages bearing the name **Mashtul**, the present form of **Migdol** in Egyptian, of Coptic derivation.

SEE MIGDOL 2

- Though one of the Amarna Tablets mentions a certain **Ma-ag-da-li'**, it gives no indication of its location. Since the location of the other

sites, Pihahiroth and Baal-zephon, are not presently known, the location of **Migdol** remains uncertain.

- Some consider it as likely to have been a site on the height of **Jebel `Ataqah** overlooking the northern end of the Gulf of Suez. Though no evidence is known today connecting such a site with the name **Migdol**, it would obviously be a strategic location for a watchtower or frontier post.