

~OPHEL (100)

(O'phel) [Mound, that is, bulge, swelling, projection, eminence]

- The **Hebrew** term '*O'phel*' is applied in two ways. Most commonly, it is applied in a topographical sense to a **prominent hill** or promontory. A form of the term is also applied to the swelling or bulging of body veins known as piles, or hemorrhoids.
- Yehowah will strike you with the boil of Egypt and **piles** and eczema and skin eruption, from which you will not be able to be healed. (**Deuteronomy 28:27**)
- And the hand of Yehowah came to be heavy upon the Ashdodites, and he began causing panic and striking them with piles, namely, Ashdod and its territories. (**1 Samuel 5:6**)
- And it came about that after they had brought it around to there, the hand of Yehowah came to be upon the city with a very great confusion, and he began striking the men of the city, from small to great, and piles began breaking out on them. (**1 Samuel 5:9**)
- And the men that did not die had been struck with piles. And the cry of the city for help kept ascending to the heavens. (**1 Samuel 5:12**)
- At this they said; What is the guilt offering that we ought to return to him? Then they said; According to the number of the axis lords of the Philistines, five golden piles and five golden jerboas, for every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. (**1 Samuel 6:4**)
- And you must make images of your piles and images of your jerboas that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (**1 Samuel 6:5**)
- There was a particular **hill** or eminence located at or near Jerusalem that was called *ha- 'O'phel*, or **Ophel**. The Scriptural indications taken with the comments of Josephus locate **Ophel** at the Southeast corner of Moriah.
- He himself built the upper gate of Yehowah's house, and on the

- wall of **Ophel** he did a great deal of building. (2 Chronicles 27:3)
- And after this he built an outer wall for the City of David to the west of Gihon in the torrent valley and as far as the Fish Gate, and he ran it around to **Ophel** and proceeded to make it very high. Further, he put chiefs of the military force in all the fortified cities in Judah. (2 Chronicles 33:14)
 - And the Nethinim themselves happened to be dwellers in **Ophel**, they did repair work as far as in front of the Water Gate on the east and the protruding tower. (Nehemiah 3:26)
 - After them the Tekoites repaired another measured section, from in front of the great protruding tower as far as the wall of **Ophel**. (Nehemiah 3:27)
 - And the Nethinim were dwelling in **Ophel**, and Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim. (Nehemiah 11:21)
 - In the First Century C.E, Josephus placed **Ophel** where the eastern wall joined the eastern portico of the temple. [The Jewish War, V, 145, iv, 2]
 - **Ophel** evidently was the bulge of land extending eastwardly from the Southeast corner of Jerusalem's temple hill.
 - **Ophel's** wall and elevated position over the Kidron Valley gave it a strong defensive position. Nevertheless, Isaiah prophesied that **Ophel**, apparently that of Jerusalem, would become a bare field.
 - For the dwelling tower itself has been forsaken, the very hubbub of the city has been abandoned, **Ophel** and the watchtower themselves have become bare fields, for time indefinite the exultation of zebras, the pasture of droves. (Isaiah 32:14)
 - The reference to the tower and mound '*O'phel*' at;
 - And as for you, O tower of the drove, the mound of the daughter of Zion, as far as to you it will come, yes, the first dominion will certainly come, the kingdom belonging to the daughter of Jerusalem. (Micah 4:8)
 - Scholars believe that the term '*O'phel*' at;
 - When he came to **Ophel**, he immediately took them from their

hand and deposited them in the house and sent the men away.
So off they went. (**2 Kings 5:24**)

- **Refers to some prominent hill or fortified place in the vicinity of Samaria to which Elisha's attendant Gehazi took the riches he obtained from Naaman. This indicates that the word was applied to mounds other than the one in Jerusalem.**