

~PALESTINE (678)

[Hebrew, *Pele'sheth*, Latin, *Palaestina*, Greek, *Pa-lai-sti'ne*]

- Geographic Features
- Geographic Names
- Climatic Conditions
- Plants And Animals
- Resources From The Ground

- That land situated at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, which was once occupied by the ancient nation of Israel. The name is derived from the Latin *Palaestina* and the Greek *Pa-lai-sti'ne*.
- This latter word, in turn, is drawn from the Hebrew *Pele'sheth*. In the Hebrew Scriptures *Pele'sheth*, translated, Philistia, occurs only in reference to the limited coastal territory occupied by the Philistines.
- Peoples must hear, they will be agitated. Birth pangs must take hold on the inhabitants of **Philistia**. (Exodus 15:14)
- Moab is my washing pot. Over Edom I shall throw my sandal. Over **Philistia** I shall shout in triumph. (Psalms 60:8)
- Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, **Philistia** together with the inhabitants of Tyre. (Psalms 83:7)
- I shall make mention of Rahab and Babylon as among those knowing me, here are **Philistia** and Tyre, together with Cush. This is one who was born there. (Psalms 87:4)
- Moab is my washing pot. Over Edom I shall throw my sandal. Over **Philistia** I shall shout in triumph. (Psalms 108:9)
- Do not rejoice, O **Philistia**, any one of you, just because the staff of the one striking you has been broken. For out of the root of the serpent there will come forth a poisonous snake, and its fruit will be a flying fiery snake. (Isaiah 14:29)
- Howl, O gate! Cry out, O city! All of you must become disheartened, O **Philistia**! For out of the north a smoke is coming, and there is no one getting isolated from his ranks. (Isaiah 14:31)

- And, also, what do you have to do with me, O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Is it the treatment that you are giving me as a reward? And if you are giving such treatment to me, swiftly, speedily I shall pay back your treatment upon your heads. (**Joel 3:4**)
- **Herodotus**, however, in the **Fifth Century B.C.E**, and later other secular writers, Philo, Ovid, Pliny, Josephus, Jerome, used the Greek and Latin terms to designate all that territory formerly known as the land of Canaan or the land of Israel.
- Command the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, you are going into the land of Canaan. This is the land that will fall to you by inheritance, the land of Canaan according to its boundaries. (**Numbers 34:2**)
- Now there was not a smith to be found in all the land of Israel, because the Philistines had said; That the Hebrews may not make a sword or a spear. (**1 Samuel 13:19**)
- Emperor Vespasian also described this territory as, **Palestine**, on the coins he struck in commemoration of Jerusalem's fall in **70 C.E**. Because Yehowah had promised this land to Abraham and his descendants
- On that day Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, saying; To your seed I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. (**Genesis 15:18**)
- Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Do not turn your face to the hardness of this people and their wickedness and their sin. (**Deuteronomy 9:27**)
- For fear the land out of which you brought us may say; Because Yehowah was unable to bring them into the land that he had promised them, and because he hated them he brought them out to put them to death in the wilderness. (**Deuteronomy 9:28**)
- It was also appropriately called the Promised Land or the Land of Promise.
- By faith he resided as an alien in the land of the promise as in a foreign land, and dwelt in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the very same promise. (**Hebrews 11:9**)

- From the Middle Ages on, it has often been called the Holy Land.
- In a sense **Palestine** is the connecting link between the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. This placed it in the center of a circle around the rim of which were located the ancient world powers of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; This is Jerusalem. In the midst of the nations I have set her, with lands all around her. (**Ezekiel 5:5**)
- Hemmed in by great deserts on the East and South and by the Great Sea, or Mediterranean, on the West, **Palestine** served as a land bridge between the Nile and Euphrates rivers, over which bridge the caravans on the world trade routes passed.
- Situated in what has been called the Fertile Crescent, Palestine itself was of particular interest, being a delightful place gifted with its own natural resources and special characteristics.
- The term, **Palestine** as it is used today refers to a general region. It does not imply precise boundaries. On the South an imaginary line could be drawn from the southern end of the Dead Sea to the Southeast corner of the Mediterranean, and on the North another line running from the southern slopes of Mount Hermon to a point near the city of Tyre. This area, from North to South, from Dan to Beer-sheba.
- And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba became aware that Samuel was one accredited for the position of prophet to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 3:20**)
- So as to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beer-sheba. (**2 Samuel 3:10**)
- Was about 240 kilometers (150 miles) in length. From the Mediterranean Sea on the West, **Palestine** extended to the Arabian Desert on the East. All together, the area amounted to approximately 25,500 square kilometers (9,850 square miles), less than the size of Belgium, but a little larger than the state of New Hampshire, U.S.A.

·· Geographic Features

- For a comprehensive view of its geography, the territory of **Palestine** may be conveniently divided into four rather parallel regions running from North to South.
- First, there was a strip of fertile plain along the coast, a coast that, for the most part, had very little to offer in the way of natural harbors.
- Dividing this coastal plain in two was the promontory of the imposing Mount Carmel Range, which jutted out almost to the sea. The northern section was known as the Plain of Asher or Phoenicia.
- The southern portion skirted around sand dunes nestled close to the sea, and it consisted of the Plain of Sharon and the Plain of Philistia, the latter widening out in the South.
- The second geographic region, next to the maritime plains, contained the principal mountain ranges, which ran North and South like a backbone of the country.
- In the North were the mountains of Naphtali, also called the Hills of Galilee. They were an extension of the Lebanon ranges, which were noted for their cedar forests and their prominent Mount Hermon, which towered skyward 2,814 meters (9,232 feet).
- The northern mountains of **Palestine** ranged in altitude from 1,208 meters (3,963 feet) at Har Meron in Upper Galilee to 562 meters (1,844 feet) for Mount Tabor, made famous in the days of Barak.
- Then they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. ([Judges 4:12](#))
- Below Mount Tabor was a comparatively broad central plain that cut transversely across the country from West to East, separating the northern mountains from those to the South. This valley, where many decisive battles were fought, consisted of two parts, the eastern low plain of Jezreel, and the western section, the valley plain of Megiddo.
- Then the sons of Joseph said; The mountainous region is not enough for us, and there are war chariots with iron scythes among all the Canaanites dwelling in the land of the low plain, both those who are in Beth-shean and its dependent towns and those who are in the low plain of Jezreel. ([Joshua 17:16](#))

- And Josiah did not turn his face away from him, but to fight against him he disguised himself and did not listen to the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the valley plain of Megiddo. ([2 Chronicles 35:22](#))
- To the West and North of the Megiddo valley, which was drained by the Kishon, was the Carmel Range running southeasterly from the coast and joining the mountains of Ephraim, or Samaria, in which the historic peaks of Gerizim and Ebal were located, the latter being over 900 meters (3,000 feet) high.
- And it must occur that when Yehowah your God brings you into the land to which you are going to take possession of it, you must also give the blessing upon Mount Gerizim and the malediction upon Mount Ebal. ([Deuteronomy 11:29](#))
- Continuing South, this range was known as the mountainous region of Judah, for though elevations varied from 600 meters (2,000 feet) to over 1,000 meters (3,300 feet), the area consisted largely of plateaus, rounded hills, and gentle slopes.
- And cities he built in the mountainous region of Judah, and in the woodlands he built fortified places and towers. ([2 Chronicles 27:4](#))
- So Mary rose in these days and went into the mountainous country with haste, to a city of Judah. ([Luke 1:39](#))
- Here in this region were such cities as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron.
- Gradually the Judean Mountains on the South merged into the Negeb, a name thought to be from a root meaning, be parched, a region that extended to the torrent valley of Egypt and constituted the southern portion of **Palestine**. On the northern edge of the Negeb was the oasislike city of Beer-sheba, at the southern extremity, Kadesh-barnea.
- Afterward Abram broke camp, going then from encampment to encampment toward the Negeb. ([Genesis 12:9](#))
- Now Abraham moved camp from there to the land of the Negeb and took up dwelling between Kadesh and Shur and residing as an alien at Gerar. ([Genesis 20:1](#))

- **After that Abraham returned to his attendants, and they got up and went their way together to Beersheba, and Abraham continued to dwell at Beersheba. ([Genesis 22:19](#))**

- **When approaching the mountains of Judah from the West, one comes to the hill section known as the Shephelah, with its several small West-to-East valleys leading from the coastal plains to the highlands.**

- **And it came about that as soon as all the kings who were on the side of the Jordan in the mountainous region and in the Shephelah and along the whole coast of the Great Sea and in front of Lebanon, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, heard of it. ([Joshua 9:1](#))**

- **For the most part these hills were suitable for the grazing of flocks and cattle, the springs in the valleys furnishing the necessary water.**

- **The third feature of **Palestines** geography was the great Rift Valley, sometimes called the Arabah.**

- **Are they not on the side of the Jordan toward the direction of the sunset, in the land of the Canaanites dwelling in the Arabah, in front of Gilgal, beside the big trees of Moreh? ([Deuteronomy 11:30](#))**

- **Which divides the country longitudinally from top to bottom. This deep cleft began in Syria to the North and extended southward all the way to the Red Seas Gulf of `Aqaba. What made this central depression of the land all the more spectacular were the parallel mountain ranges and cliffs on either side of it.**

- **When tracing this trenchlike depression from North to South, one quickly drops from the foothills of Mount Hermon to the Hula Basin, where the headwaters of the Jordan once formed a small lake.**

- **From there the Jordan, in some 16 kilometers (10 miles), rapidly drops over 270 meters (890 feet) to the Sea of Galilee, which is about 210 meters (700 feet) below sea level.**

- From Galilee to the Dead Sea, this great rift in the earth's crust is the Jordan Valley proper, and by the Arabs is called the *Ghor*, meaning **depression**. It is a **gorge** as much as 19 kilometers (12 miles) wide in places.
- The Jordan itself is about 45 meters (150 feet) below the floor of this valley, and as it slowly snakes its way down to the Dead Sea, it continues to drop about 180 meters (600 feet) more.
- This makes the surface of the Dead Sea about 400 meters (1,300 feet) below the level of the Mediterranean the lowest point on the earth's surface.
- The extension of the Rift Valley south of the Dead Sea for another 160 kilometers (100 miles) to the Gulf of `Aqaba was more commonly known as the Arabah proper.
- So we passed on away from our brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, from the way of the Arabah, from Elath and from Ezion-geber. Next we turned and passed on by the way of the wilderness of Moab. (**Deuteronomy 2:8**)
- Midway it reached its highest point, about 200 meters (650 feet) above sea level.
- The fourth geographic region of **Palestine** consisted of hills and tablelands East of the great Jordanian rift.
- From Aroer, which is by the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the torrent valley, as far as Gilead, there proved to be no town that was too high up for us. Yehowah our God abandoned them all to us. (**Deuteronomy 2:36**)
- Only you did not go near the land of the sons of Ammon, the whole bank of the torrent valley of Jabbok, nor the cities of the mountainous region, nor anything about which Yehowah our God had given command. (**Deuteronomy 2:37**)
- And we proceeded to take at that particular time the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were in the region of the Jordan, from the torrent valley of Arnon as far as Mount Hermon. (**Deuteronomy 3:8**)
- The Sidonians used to call Hermon Sirion, and the Amorites used

to call it Senir. (**Deuteronomy 3:9**)

- All the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (**Deuteronomy 3:10**)
- In the North this arable land extended East of the Sea of Galilee perhaps 100 kilometers (60 miles), while in the South the width was only about 40 kilometers (25 miles) before it became a wilderness, arid steppes that eventually lost themselves in the Arabian Desert.
- The wider, northern section of this rolling eastern region, above Ramoth-gilead, was called the land of Bashan, about 600 meters (2,000 feet) in average altitude, South of Bashan the domelike region of Gilead attained an elevation of 1,000 meters (3,300 feet).
- On its South, Gilead bordered the tableland North of the torrent valley of Arnon, in which area was situated Mount Nebo, over 820 meters (2,700 feet) high.
- This territory, at one time the possession of the Ammonites, was, in turn, bounded South of the torrent valley of Arnon by the land of Moab.
- Furthermore, Moses made a gift to the tribe of Gad, the sons of Gad by their families. (**Joshua 13:24**)
- And their territory came to be Jazer and all the cities of Gilead and half of the land of the sons of Ammon as far as Aroer, which is in front of Rabbah. (**Joshua 13:25**)
- Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying; What do I have to do with you, seeing that you have come against me to fight in my land? (**Judges 11:12**)
- So the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah; It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and as far as the Jordan. And now do return it peacefully. (**Judges 11:13**)
- But Jephthah sent once more messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:14**)
- And said to him; This is what Jephthah has said; Israel did not

**take the land of Moab and the land of the sons of Ammon.
(Judges 11:15)**

- **For when they came up out of Egypt Israel went walking through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and got to come to Kadesh.
(Judges 11:16)**
- **Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying; Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not listen. And also to the king of Moab they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. (Judges 11:17)**
- **When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, so that they went toward the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of Moab, because Arnon was the boundary of Moab. (Judges 11:18)**
- **After that Israel sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him; Let us pass, please, through your land to my own place. (Judges 11:19)**
- **And Sihon did not feel sure about Israel's crossing through his territory, and Sihon went gathering all his people together and camping in Jahaz and fighting against Israel. (Judges 11:20)**
- **At this Yehowah the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they struck them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites inhabiting that land.
(Judges 11:21)**
- **Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (Judges 11:22)**
- **And now Yehowah the God of Israel it was that dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and you, for your part, would dispossess them. (Judges 11:23)**
- **Is it not whomever Chemosh your god causes you to dispossess that you will dispossess? And every one whom Yehowah our God has dispossessed from before us is the one we shall dispossess.
(Judges 11:24)**

- And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? (**Judges 11:25**)
- While Israel was dwelling in Heshbon and its dependent towns and in Aroer and its dependent towns and in all the cities that are by the banks of Arnon for three hundred years, why, then, did you never snatch them away during that time? (**Judges 11:26**)
- As for me, I have not sinned against you, but you are dealing wrong with me by fighting against me. Let Yehowah the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:27**)
- And the king of the sons of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he had sent to him. (**Judges 11:28**)

•• Geographic Names

- The ancient Hebrew names of many cities, mountains, and valleys have been lost, partly due to the occupation of **Palestine** by the Arabs for much of the time since **638 C.E.**
- But, since Arabic is the living language most closely related to Hebrew, it is possible in some instances to identify with considerable accuracy certain ancient places and sites of major events.

•• Climatic Conditions

- **Palestines** climate is as diversified as its topography. In the matter of some 160 kilometers (100 miles), from the Dead Sea to Mount Hermon, the contrasting extremes in altitude produce climatic conditions equivalent to those that are elsewhere spread over thousands of miles in latitude between the Tropics and the Arctic.
- Mount Hermon is usually snowcapped much of the year, while down along the Dead Sea the thermometer sometimes reaches 50° Centigrade (122° Fahrenheit). Sea breezes up from the Mediterranean moderate the temperature along the central mountain range.
- As a result it is seldom hotter than 32° Centigrade (90° Fahrenheit) in Jerusalem, and rarely does it freeze there. Its average

**January temperature is around 10° Centigrade (50° Fahrenheit).
Snowfall in that part of the country is not common.**

- **As for Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the son of a valiant man, who did many deeds in Kabzeel, he himself struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab, and he himself descended and struck down a lion inside a waterpit on a day of snowfall. (2 Samuel 23:20)**
- **Rainfall in this country of contrasts also varies a great deal. Along the coast the annual precipitation is about 38 centimeters (15 inches), but in the higher altitudes of Mount Carmel, the central range, and the highlands East of the Jordan there is up to twice this amount.**
- **On the other hand, desert conditions prevail in the Negeb, the lower Jordan Valley, and the Dead Sea area, with 5 to 10 centimeters (2 to 4 inches) of rain annually. Most of the rain falls in the winter months of December, January, and February, only 6 or 7 percent in the summer months from June to October.**
- **The light early, or autumn, rain in October and November permits the plowing of soil, baked hard by the summer heat, in preparation for the sowing of winter grains. The late, or spring, rain comes in March and April.**
- **I also shall certainly give rain for your land at its appointed time, autumn rain and spring rain, and you will indeed gather your grain and your sweet wine and your oil. (Deuteronomy 11:14)**
- **And, you sons of Zion, be joyful and rejoice in Yehowah your God, for he will be bound to give you the autumn rain in right measure, and he will bring down upon you people a downpour, autumn rain and spring rain, as at the first. (Joel 2:23)**
- **Make your requests of Yehowah for rain in the time of the spring rain, even of Yehowah who is making the storm clouds, and who gives a downpour of rain to them, to each one vegetation in the field. (Zechariah 10:1)**
- **Exercise patience, therefore, brothers, until the presence of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until he gets the early rain and the late rain. (James 5:7)**

- One of **Palestine's** great assets is the abundance of dew, especially through the rainless summer months, for without the heavy dews many of the vineyards and grazing lands would suffer greatly.
- Therefore over you the heavens kept back their dew, and the earth itself kept back its yield. (**Haggai 1:10**)
- For there will be the seed of peace, the vine itself will give its fruitage, and the earth itself will give its yield, and the heavens themselves will give their dew, and I shall certainly cause the remaining ones of this people to inherit all these things. (**Zechariah 8:12**)
- The moisture-laden breezes blowing up from the Mediterranean and down from Mount Hermon account for much of the dew in **Palestine**.
- It is like the dew of Hermon that is descending upon the mountains of Zion. For there Yehowah commanded the blessing to be, even life to time indefinite. (**Psalms 133:3**)
- In certain areas the dew at night is so heavy that enough moisture is recovered by the vegetation to compensate for the losses during the heat of the day.
- My root is opened for the waters, and dew itself will stay overnight upon my bough. (**Job 29:19**)
- Of particular importance is the dew in the Negeb and uplands of Gilead where rainfall is minimal.

See Also DEW

.. Plants And Animals

- The tremendous variety of trees, shrubs, and plants found in this small area of the earth has been a source of amazement among botanists, one of whom estimates that there are about 2,600 plant varieties growing there.
- The diversity in altitude, climate, and soil helps to account for this variety in flora, some plants being at home in the cold alpine, others in the torrid desert, and still others in the alluvial plain or the rocky plateau, each blooming and bearing seed in its season.

- **Within comparatively short distances from one another are found hot-weather palms and cold-weather oaks and pines, willows along the streams and tamarisks in the wilderness.**

- **This land is also famous for its cultivated vineyards, olive groves, fig orchards, and fields of wheat, barley, and millet. Other crops include peas, beans, lentils, eggplants, onions, and cucumbers, as well as cotton and flax.**

- **Modern visitors to this land are often disappointed unless it is springtime, when the countryside is in full bloom with its flower spectacle. For most of the year, the stony hillsides are barren and bleak.**

- **At one time, however, parts of the land were more heavily wooded than at present, lush like the garden of Yehowah, a veritable botanical garden flowing with milk and honey, hospitable and inviting.**

- **So Lot raised his eyes and saw the whole District of the Jordan, that all of it was a wellwatered region before Yehowah brought Sodom and Gomorrah to ruin, like the garden of Yehowah, like the land of Egypt as far as Zoar. ([Genesis 13:10](#))**

- **And I am proceeding to go down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the locality of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ([Exodus 3:8](#))**

- **When they came to the torrent valley of Eshcol, they then proceeded to cut down from there a shoot with one cluster of grapes. And they went carrying it with a bar on two of the men, and also some of the pomegranates and some of the figs. ([Numbers 13:23](#))**

- **They called that place the torrent valley of Eshcol, on account of the cluster that the sons of Israel cut down from there. ([Numbers 13:24](#))**

- **For Yehowah your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of torrent valleys of water, springs and watery deeps issuing forth in the valley plain and in the mountainous region. ([Deuteronomy 8:7](#))**

- A land of wheat and barley and vines and figs and pomegranates, a land of oil olives and honey. ([Deuteronomy 8:8](#))
- A land in which you will not eat bread with scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land the stones of which are iron and out of the mountains of which you will mine copper. ([Deuteronomy 8:9](#))
- Animal, bird, and fish life was abundant in parklike **Palestine**, in the past more so than today. The lion, bear, wild bull, and hippopotamus are no longer present, but other wildlife that may be found include wolves, wild boars, wildcats, jackals, hares, and foxes. Domesticated animals are common sheep, goats, cows, horses, asses, and camels.
- It is estimated that there are about 85 different kinds of mammals, 350 kinds of birds, and 75 kinds of reptiles in Israel today.

•• Resources From The Ground

- Besides proving to be a well-watered land capable of producing an abundance of foodstuffs, **Palestines** mountains contained useful iron and copper ores.
- A land in which you will not eat bread with scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land the stones of which are iron and out of the mountains of which you will mine copper. ([Deuteronomy 8:9](#))
- Gold, silver, tin, and lead had to be imported, but there were large deposits of salt, and in the Jordan Valley there were beds of clay for the brick, pottery, and foundry industries.
- In the District of the Jordan it was that the king cast them in the clay mold, between Succoth and Zarethan. ([1 Kings 7:46](#))
- Excellent limestone for the building trade was quarried, and there were outcroppings of dark basalt valued for its hardness and fine-grained texture.

GEOGRAPHIC TERMS

Arabic **Hebrew** **English**

`ain	`en	spring,
	[`enot, pl.]	fountain
beit	bet	house
biq`ah	biq`a t)	valley plain
[beqa`, pl.]		
bir	be`er	well
birkeh et)	berekha t)	pool
burj		tower
darb		road, way
debbah et)		sandy height
deir		convent,
		monastery
	`emeq	low plain
	gay, ge	valley
ghor		depression
	giv`a t)	hill
	[giv`ot, pl.]	
jebel	har	mountain
kafr	kefar	village
khirbeh et)	horva t)	ruin
	ma`ale	ascent
majdel	migdal	tower
	mayan	spring
	mifraz	bay, gulf
mughar	me`arah t)	cave
nahr		river
naqb		mountain path
nebi		prophet
qal`ah at)		fortress
qarn	qeren	peak
		(lit, horn)
qarya t)	qirya t)	town
qasr		castle, palace
rameh	rama t)	plateau
ras	rosh	mountaintop;
		cape
rujm	rogem	heap of
		stones, cairn
shatt		shore or bank;
		river
tal`ah at)		height
tell [tulul, pl.]	tel	mound
wadi	nahal	torrent valley
	yam	sea

