

~PENUEL 3 (57)
(Pe-nu'el) [Face of God]

- A city to the South of the Jabbok. In the time of the Judges, Gideon asked the men of **Penuel** for food in order, that his forces might continue to pursue the kings of Midian, but the **Penuelites** refused, for which reason Gideon later destroyed their tower and killed all their men.
- Eventually Gideon came to the Jordan, crossing it, he and the three hundred men that were with him, tired but keeping up the pursuit. (**Judges 8:4**)
- Later he said to the men of Succoth; Please give round loaves of bread to the people that are following my steps, for they are tired and I am chasing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian. (**Judges 8:5**)
- But the princes of Succoth said; Are the palms of Zebah and of Zalmunna already in your hand so that bread has to be given to your army? (**Judges 8:6**)
- At this Gideon said; That is why when Yehowah gives Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I shall certainly give your flesh a threshing with the thorns of the wilderness and the briers. (**Judges 8:7**)
- And he continued on his way up from there to **Penuel** and went speaking to them in this same manner, but the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered. (**Judges 8:8**)
- Hence he said also to the men of **Penuel**; When I return in peace, I shall pull down this tower. (**Judges 8:9**)
- And the tower of **Penuel** he pulled down, and he proceeded to kill the men of the city. (**Judges 8:17**)
- Nothing more is mentioned of **Penuel** until King Jeroboam I **built** it again, or at least fortified it.
- And Jeroboam proceeded to build Shechem in the mountainous

region of Ephraim and to dwell in it. Then he went forth from there and built **Penuel**. (**1 Kings 12:25**)

- **Penuel** is generally identified with **Tulul edh-Dhahab esh-Sherqiyeh**, about 6 kilometers (3.5 miles) East of Succoth and near the Jabbok, some 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) or so Northeast of its confluence with the Jordan.
- Indications are that it was heavily fortified and strategically positioned so as to control the entrance of the Jabbok gorge leading westward down to the Jordan.

See Also PENIEL