

~PLAIN (139)

[Hebrew, *'ara-vah'*, *biq-'ah'*]

- Relatively level land, in contrast to hilly or mountainous country. The Hebrew Scriptures are quite explicit in their use of different words to identify or describe various types of land.
- The Hebrew term *'ara-vah'* is used both as a name for a specific area and as a word descriptive of a certain type of land. When used without the definite article, *ara-vah'* indicates a desert plain or steppe, such as those of Moab and Jericho.
- Then the sons of Israel pulled away and encamped on the desert **plains** of Moab across the Jordan from Jericho. (**Numbers 22:1**)
- And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses on the **desert plains** of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying; (**Numbers 35:1**)
- And the sons of Israel continued to camp in Gilgal, and they proceeded to carry out the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, on the **desert plains** of Jericho. (**Joshua 5:10**)
- These were what Moses caused them to inherit, on the **desert plains** of Moab on the side of the Jordan, at Jericho, toward the east. (**Joshua 13:32**)
- And a military force of the Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake Zedekiah in the **desert plains** of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (**Jeremiah 52:8**)
- Though there might be rivers to provide some water for the area, *'ara-vah'* generally emphasizes that the **plain is an arid one**. Thus it would be quite a reversal for the fertile, watered Plain of Sharon to become like the **desert plain**.
- The land has gone mourning, has withered away. Lebanon has become abashed, it has moldered. Sharon has become like the **desert plain**, and Bashan and Carmel are shaking off their leaves. (**Isaiah 33:9**)

- Or for torrents of water to come to the **desert plain**.
- The wilderness and the waterless region will exult, and the **desert plain** will be joyful and blossom as the saffron. (**Isaiah 35:1**)
- At that time the lame one will climb up just as a stag does, and the tongue of the speechless one will cry out in gladness. For in the wilderness waters will have burst out, and torrents in the **desert plain**. (**Isaiah 35:6**)
- For Yehowah will certainly comfort Zion. He will for certain comfort all her devastated places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her **desert plain** like the garden of Yehowah. Exultation and rejoicing themselves will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. (**Isaiah 51:3**)

See Also ARABAH

- The **Hebrew** word *biq-`ah* indicated a **wide plain** bounded by mountains. It comes from a verb meaning, **split** and can be accurately rendered **valley plain**. Even today the broad **valley plain** between the Anti-Lebanon Range and the Lebanon Mountains is known as the **Beqa`**.
- From Mount Halak, which goes up to Seir, and as far as Baal-gad in the **valley plain** of Lebanon at the base of Mount Hermon, and he captured all their kings and went striking them and putting them to death. (**Joshua 11:17**)
- Often in the Scriptures *biq-`ah*, or **valley plain**, is set in contrast to **mountains** or **hills**.
- 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**)
- But the land to which you are crossing to take possession of it is a land of mountains and **valley plains**. Of the rain of the heavens it drinks water. (**Deuteronomy 11:11**)
- Mountains proceeded to ascend, **valley plains** proceeded to descend, to the place that you have founded for them. (**Psalms**

104:8)

- Upon bare hills I shall open up rivers, and in the midst of the **valley plains**, springs. I shall make the wilderness into a reedy pool of water, and the waterless land into sources of water. (Isaiah 41:18)
- Or to rugged or rough ground.
- Let every **valley** be raised up, and every mountain and hill be made low. And the knobby ground must become level land, and the rugged ground a **valley plain**. (Isaiah 40:4)
- The related Aramaic word appearing at;
- Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and the breadth of which was six cubits. He set it up in the **plain** of Dura in the jurisdictional district of Babylon. (Daniel 3:1)
- Is frequently translated just **plain**, referring to the place where Nebuchadnezzar erected the gold image.
- A long low **plain**, or **valley**, was designated in Hebrew *`e'meq*. The word signifies a long broad sweep between parallel ranges of hills of less extent than the preceding term *biq-'ah*, *`e'meq* having the idea of lowness and breadth rather than precipitateness or confinement. [McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia, 1881, Vol. X, p. 703]
- The Hebrew word is applied to many different localities, such as the **low plain** of Achor, the **low plain** of Aijalon, and the **low plain** of Rephaim.
- Joshua, and all Israel with him, now took Achan the son of Zerah and the silver and the official garment and the bar of gold and his sons and his daughters and his bull and his ass and his flock and his tent and everything that was his and they brought them up to the **low plain** of Achor. (Joshua 7:24)
- It was then that Joshua proceeded to speak to Yehowah on the day of Yehowah's abandoning the Amorites to the sons of Israel, and he went on to say before the eyes of Israel; Sun, be motionless over Gibeon, and, moon, over the **low plain** of Aijalon. (Joshua 10:12)

- **And three of the thirty head ones proceeded to go down to the rock, to David at the cave of Adullam, while a camp of the Philistines was camping in the **low plain** of Rephaim. (**1 Chronicles 11:15**)**