

~ZARETHAN (96)
(Zar'e-than)

- The first reference to it is at;
- Then the waters descending from above began to stand still. They rose up as one dam very far away at Adam, the city at the side of **Zarethan**, while those descending toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were exhausted. They were cut off, and the people passed over in front of Jericho. (**Joshua 3:16**)
- Where the account is given of the miraculous damming up of the waters of the Jordan at Adam, the city at the side of **Zarethan**. Later the record states that at the time of the casting of copper items for the temple, such casting was done in the District of the Jordan, in the clay mold, between Succoth and **Zarethan**.
- 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**)
- The clay available in the Jordan Valley contributed toward the feasibility of such copper-casting operations in this area.
- Since the site of Adam is generally placed at **Tell ed-Damiyeh**, on the East side of the Jordan opposite the entrance to the **Wadi Far`ah**, and since Succoth is considered to be located about 13 kilometers (8 miles) North-Northeast of Adam, these texts would indicate that **Zarethan** lay on the West side of the Jordan not far from Adam and Succoth.
- The 82-meters-high. (270 feet) summit known as Qarn Sartabeh, which is called, **the great landmark of the Jordan valley**, is suggested by some as the probable location of **Zarethan**. [*Encyclopaedia Biblica*, edited by T. Cheyne, London, 1903, Vol. IV, col. 5382]
- It lies across the Jordan from Adam, at the entrance to the Wadi Far`ah.
- This identification, however, is somewhat difficult to harmonize with the description of Solomon's fifth administrative district as given at;

- Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside **Zarethan** below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (**1 Kings 4:12**)
- Which refers to Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside **Zarethan** below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam.
- Qarn Sartabeh lies much farther South than the other places there listed and not **beside** Beth-shean in the sense of neighboring it. **The Jerusalem Bible** endeavors to adjust the geographic order of the places listed at;
- Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside **Zarethan** below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (**1 Kings 4:12**)
- Referring to all Beth-shean below Jezreel, from Beth-shean as far as Abel Meholah, which is beside **Zarethan**, thus relating **Zarethan** to Abel-meholah rather than to Beth-shean. However, since the reference is to all Beth-shean, it doubtless indicates a region rather than the city itself.
- If **Zarethan** was indeed connected with the prominent summit of Qarn Sartabeh, it may be that the region of Beth-shean embraced the valley plain around it and extending southward to a point from which **Zarethan** became visible, thus serving to indicate a separate, but neighboring, region.
- Other sites suggested for **Zarethan** lie East of the Jordan and therefore do not seem to fit the context. Excavations at one of them, Tell es-Sa`idiyeh, produced unusual quantities of articles made of bronze, an alloy formed chiefly of copper and tin, which may confirm the location of Solomon's copper-casting activity in this general area.
- In the account at;
- In the District of the Jordan the king cast them in the thick ground between Succoth and Zeredah. (**2 Chronicles 4:17**)
- Which parallels that of;
- 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**)

- **Zeredah** appears in place of **Zarethan**, perhaps representing a variant spelling of the name.