

~ZOAR (215)
(Zo'ar) [Smallness]

- A city of the **District**, evidently once at the edge of a fertile plain.
- 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**)
- Then Lot chose for himself the whole District of the Jordan, and Lot moved his camp to the east. So they separated the one from the other. (**Genesis 13:11**)
- Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, but Lot dwelt among the cities of the District. Finally he pitched tent near Sodom. (**Genesis 13:12**)
- Apparently **Bela** was **Zoar's** earlier name. In Abraham's day, it was ruled by a king who rebelled with the four others of the District after 12 years of domination by Chedorlaomer, only to be defeated by the Elamite monarch and his three allies.
- Now it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim. (**Genesis 14:1**)
- That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of **Bela, that is to say, Zoar**. (**Genesis 14:2**)
- All these marched as allies to the Low Plain of Siddim, that is, the Salt Sea. (**Genesis 14:3**)
- Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (**Genesis 14:4**)
- And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (**Genesis 14:5**)

- And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to Elparan, which is at the wilderness. ([Genesis 14:6](#))
- Then they turned about and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and defeated the whole field of the Amalekites and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazontamar. ([Genesis 14:7](#))
- At this point the king of Sodom went on the march, and also the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of **Bela, that is to say, Zoar**, and they drew up in battle order against them in the Low Plain of Siddim. ([Genesis 14:8](#))
- Against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against the five. ([Genesis 14:9](#))
- Now the Low Plain of Siddim was pits upon pits of bitumen, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah took to flight and went falling into them, and those who remained fled to the mountainous region. ([Genesis 14:10](#))
- Then the victors took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on their way. ([Genesis 14:11](#))
- When Yehowah was about to destroy Sodom, Lot requested and received permission to flee from there to **Zoar**, and this city was spared.
- Then Lot said to them; Not that, please, Yehowah! ([Genesis 19:18](#))
- Please, now, your servant has found favor in your eyes so that you are magnifying your loving-kindness, which you have exercised with me to preserve my soul alive, but I, I am not able to escape to the mountainous region for fear calamity may keep close to me and I certainly die. ([Genesis 19:19](#))
- Please, now, this city is nearby to flee there and it is a small thing. May I, please, escape there, is it not a small thing? And my soul will live on. ([Genesis 19:20](#))
- So he said to him; Here I do show you consideration to this extent also, by my not overthrowing the city of which you have

spoken. (**Genesis 19:21**)

- **Hurry! Escape there, because I am not able to do a thing until your arriving there! That is why he called the name of the city **Zoar**. (**Genesis 19:22**)**
- **The sun had gone forth over the land when Lot arrived at **Zoar**. (**Genesis 19:23**)**
- **Then Yehowah made it rain sulphur and fire from Yehowah, from the heavens, upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah. (**Genesis 19:24**)**
- **So he went ahead overthrowing these cities, even the entire District and all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. (**Genesis 19:25**)**
- **Fear later caused him and his two daughters to leave **Zoar** and become cave dwellers in the nearby mountainous region.**
- **Later Lot went up from **Zoar** and began dwelling in the mountainous region, and his two daughters along with him, because he got afraid of dwelling in Zoar. So he began dwelling in a cave, he and his two daughters. (**Genesis 19:30**)**

See Also DISTRICT OF THE JORDAN

- **It was foretold that when catastrophe befell Moab, its runaways would flee to **Zoar** and that the cry over the nations devastation would be heard from Zoar clear to Horonaim, to Eglath-shelishiyah, perhaps indicating that Zoar was then a Moabite city.**
- **My own heart cries out over Moab himself. The runaways thereof are as far along as **Zoar** and Eglath-shelishiyah. For on the ascent of Luhith, with weeping each one goes up on it, for on the way to Horonaim they arouse the outcry about the catastrophe. (**Isaiah 15:5**)**
- **From the cry in Heshbon clear to Elealeh, clear to Jahaz they have given forth their voice, from **Zoar** clear to Horonaim, to Eglath-shelishiyah, for even the waters of Nimrim themselves will become mere desolations. (**Jeremiah 48:34**)**
- **The **Greek Septuagint** and certain modern translations, **AT, JB, NE, RS** mention **Zoar** or **Zogora** at, **LXX, Bagster****

- Moab has been broken down. Her little ones have caused a cry to be heard. (**Jeremiah 48:4**)
- Yet shall I rebuild you and you will actually be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel. You will yet deck yourself with your tambourines and actually go forth in the dance of those who are laughing. (**Jeremiah 31:4**)
- But the **Hebrew Masoretic** text there refers instead to her little ones. **NW, JP, LE, RO Zoar** marked the extreme South point that Moses saw when viewing the land from Mount Nebo.
- Then Moses proceeded to go up from the desert plains of Moab into Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which fronts toward Jericho. And Yehowah went showing him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan. (**Deuteronomy 34:1**)
- And all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea. (**Deuteronomy 34:2**)
- And the Negeb and the District, the valley plain of Jericho, the city of the palm trees, as far as **Zoar**. (**Deuteronomy 34:3**)
- Apparently the city was in or near Moab, close to the Moabite mountainous region and somewhere Southeast of the Dead Sea.
- And it came about that, as soon as they had brought them forth to the outskirts, he began to say; Escape for your soul! Do not look behind you and do not stand still in all the District! Escape to the mountainous region for fear you may be swept away! (**Genesis 19:17**)
- Then Lot said to them; Not that, please, Yehowah! (**Genesis 19:18**)
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- Hurry! Escape there, because I am not able to do a thing until your arriving there! That is why he called the name of the city **Zoar**. (**Genesis 19:22**)
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- In time the firstborn became mother to a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of Moab, to this day. (**Genesis 19:37**)
- Some scholars would place **Zoar** North of the Dead Sea, others on the el-Lisan Peninsula, or just West or South of the South end of the sea. Yohanan Aharoni identifies it with es-Safi, situated on the delta of the torrent valley of Zered, **Wadi el-Hasa´**.
- In the Middle Ages the name was linked with an important site between Jerusalem and Elath. However, some scholars believe that the original Zoar and the other **cities of the District** lie beneath the waters of the South portion of the Dead Sea.
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