

# ALL THE PLACES OF THE BIBLE

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This article identifies all of the places named in the Bible, excluding the deuterocanonical books. The place names are arranged alphabetically as they appear in the King James Version, with variant spellings enclosed in brackets [ ]. The suggested meaning of the names is then given in parentheses ( ). Under each entry, various places bearing this name are differentiated by boldface brackets, like this [1] ; [2]; and so on. Then follows a description of each place, with several Bible references to it.

The meanings of the names are not infallibly accurate; they are simply interesting possibilities. These place names are ancient, many are pre-Israelite, and their history is obscure and uncertain.

Often a Hebrew name refers to both a place and a person. In such cases, you will find the same name in "All the People of the Bible."

Different names were used to refer to certain sites in different periods of history (e.g., Accho and Ptolemais). We have grouped these names under the most familiar biblical name, cross-referencing the other names to it. Modern place names are given under most of the biblical names.

## F

**Fair Havens**, an anchorage on the southern coast of the island of Crete, near Lasea (Acts 27:8).

## End of the F's.

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## G

**Gaash** ("earthquake"), a hill in the territory of Ephraim, just south of Timnath-serah; the burial place of Joshua (Josh. 24:30).

**Gaba**. See Geba.

**Gabbatha** ("pavement"), an open space at the front of Herod's temple in Jerusalem, where Pontius Pilate sat to judge Jesus Christ (John 19:13).



**Sea of Galilee.** This freshwater lake, fed by the Jordan River, is enclosed by hills except where the Jordan enters and leaves. Called a "sea" because of its considerable size, the lake is below sea level and has a semi-tropical climate. Violent storms can suddenly sweep down onto the lake from nearby Mount Hermon.

**Gad** ("lot; fortune"), the territory settled by the tribe of Gad, east of the Jordan River (1 Sam. 13:7; Josh. 13:24). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Gadara** ("walls"), a town located east of the Jordan River, 11km. (7 mi.) south of the Sea of Galilee (Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26). According to Josephus, it later became capital of the Roman district of Perea. *See also* Gergesa.

**Gai**. *See* Gath.

**Galatia** ("land of Galli"), a district of central Asia Minor (Acts 16:6).

**Galeed**. *See* Jegar-sahadutha.

**Galilee** ("circle"), one of the largest Roman districts of Palestine; the primary region of Jesus' ministry (Luke 3: 1; 23:6).

**Galilee, Sea of** [**Sea of Kinnereth; Sea of Gennesaret; Sea of Tiberias**], a large lake in northern Palestine, fed by the Jordan River; several of Jesus' disciples worked as fishermen on this lake (John 6:1). *See also* Chinnereth [1] arid Gennesaret [2].

**Gallim** ("heaps"), [1] A village of the tribe of Benjamin, located southwest of Jerusalem (Sam. 25:44). [2] A village near Gibeah of Saul (Isa, 10:29-30); probably modern Khirbet Ka'kul.

**Gath** ("wine press"), one of the five chief Philistine cities; home of the giant Goliath (1 Sam. 17:4; 2 Kings 12:17; 2 Chron. 26:6). Its exact location is not known.

**Gath-hepher [Gittah-hepher]** ("wine press of digging"), a city of the tribe of Zebulun, located about 5 km. (3 mi.) northeast of Nazareth; home of the prophet Jonah (Josh. 19:13; 2 Kings 14:25).

**Gath-rimmon** ("pomegranate press"). [1] A city of the tribe of Dan assigned to the Levites; it probably was located on the Plain of Joppa (Josh. 19:45; 1 Chron. 6:69). [2] A town of the tribe of Manasseh, assigned to the Levites (Josh. 21:25); probably the same as Bileam.

**Gaza** [Azzah] ("strong"). [1] The southernmost of the five chief Philistine cities, located 72 km. (44.5 mi.) south of modern Jaffa and 4 km. (2.4 mi.) from the Mediterranean Sea. It was the scene of Samson's exploits (Josh. 11:22; Judg. 16:1-3; 2 Kings 18:8; Jer. 25:20). [2] A town of the tribe of Ephraim located on a small plain near Shiloh (1 Chron. 7:28).

**Gazer.** See Gezer.

**Geba [Gaba]** ("hill"), a Benjamite city in the extreme northern portion of Judah, about 10 km. (6 mi.) north-northeast of Jerusalem (Josh. 18:24); modern Jeba'.

**Gebal** ("mountain"). [1] A Phoenician seaport 68 km. (42 mi.) north of Sidon; also called Byblos (Ezek. 27:9). [2] The northern portion of the mountains of Edom (Psa. 83:7).

**Gebim** ("ditches"), a settlement just north of Jerusalem near Michmash (Isa. 10:31).

**Geder** ("wall"), a town in the extreme southern portion of Judah, captured by Joshua (Josh. 12:13); perhaps the same as modern Beth-gador or Gedor.

**Gederah** ("sheepfold"), a town in the lowlands of Judah, 6 km. (4 mi.) northwest of Zorah (Josh. 15:36); modern Jedireh.

**Gederoth** ("sheepfolds"), a town in the lowlands of Judah, about 6 km. (4 mi.) southwest of Ekron (Josh. 15:41); modern Katrah.

**Gederothaim** ("two sheepfolds"), a town of Judah (Josh. 15:36), perhaps the same as Gederoth.

**Gedor** ("wall"). [1] A town in the hills of Judah about 11 km. (7 mi.) northwest of Hebron (Josh. 15:58). [2] A town of the tribe of Simeon, near the southwestern limits of Palestine (1 Chron. 4:39). [3] A village in the territory of Benjamin (1 Chron. 12:7); modern Khirbet el-Judeira. See also "All the People of the Bible."

**Geharashim.** See Charashim.

**Geliloth** ("circles"), a landmark on the southern boundary of Benjamin (Josh. 18:17). See also Gilgal [4].

**Gennesaret** ("garden of the prince"). [1] The region on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 14:34). [2] Another name for the Sea of Galilee (Luke 5:1).

**Gerar** ("halting place"), a Philistine city on the southern edge of Palestine, near Gaza (Gen. 26:1; 2 Chron. 14:13); its exact location is unknown.

**Gergesa** ("pilgrims"), a town or district which would have been located on the eastern side of the Lake of Galilee. Its location is not certain, but some have suggested modern-day Kersa (Matt. 8:28). Some scholars have questioned the reliability of the Gospel accounts of the healing of the demoniac, for Matthew says that it occurred in Gergesa while Mark 5:1 and Luke 8:26 say that it occurred in Gadara. However, this really is no problem for Gadara was a strong city and probably had economic and political influence over the entire area.

**Gerizim** ("cutters; wasteland"), a steep mountain in central Palestine facing Mount Ebal (Deut. 11:29); its peak is 872 m. (2,840 ft.) above sea level.

**Geshur** ("bridge"), an Aramean kingdom just east of Maacah, between Mount Hermon and the district of Bashan. Absalom sought refuge here after he killed his half-brother Amnon (2 Sam. 3:3; 13:37).

**Gethsemane** ("oil press"), a garden east of Jerusalem, beyond the brook Kidron at the foot of Mount Olivet; the site of Christ's betrayal (Matt. 26:36-56).



Ruins of Gebal . King Solomon hired stone masons from the Phoenician coastal city of Gebal (later called Byblos) to help build the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 5:18, RSV). Their skill is evidenced by these stone monuments at Gebal, 40 km. (25 mi.) north of Beirut . The craftsmen of Gebal also had a reputation for shipbuilding (Ezek. 27 :9).

**Gezer [Gazer]** ("dividing"), a Canaanite town beside the Mediterranean Sea near Lachish and Lower Beth-horon; a battleground in King David's wars (2 Sam. 5:25; 1 Chron. 14:16).

**Giah** ("waterfall"), a settlement between Gibeon and a ford across the Jordan River (2 Sam. 2:24).

**Gibbethon** ("high house"), a village of the tribe of Dan where Nadab was assassinated (Josh. 19:44; 1 Kings 15:27); probably modern Tell el-Milat, directly east of Ekron.

**Gibeah** ("hill"). [1] A Judean town about 16 km. (10 mi.) northwest of Hebron (Josh. 15:57). [2] A town midway between Jerusalem and Ramah; home and capital of King Saul (1 Sam. 10:26; 15:34). [3] A town or hill in the territory of Ephraim (Josh. 24:33); probably near Timnah [1].

**Gibeon** ("hill height"), the chief city of the Hivites, assigned to the tribe of Benjamin; located 9 km. (5.5 mi.) north-northwest of Jerusalem (Josh. 11:19; 2 Sam. 20:1-9). Its modern name is El-Jib.

**Gidom** ("desolation"), a village of the tribe of Benjamin, located between Gibeah [1] and Rimmon [2] (Judg. 20:45).

**Gihon** ("stream; bursting forth"). [1] One of the four rivers of Eden [1] (Gen. 2:13). [2] An intermittent spring outside the walls of Jerusalem, south of the temple area (1 Kings 1:38-45; 2 Chron. 32:30).

**Gilboa** ("hill country"), a mountain overlooking the Plain of Jezreel; site of King Saul's death (1 Sam. 28:4; 31:1); modern Jebel Fuku'a.

**Gilead** ("strong; rocky; rough"). [1] A region east of the Jordan River, stretching from Moab to the Yarmuk River (Deut. 3: 16-17). [2] A mountain jutting onto the Plain of Jezreel (Judg. 7:3). [3] A city in the region of Gilead (Hos. 6:8). *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

**Gilgal** ("rolling"). [1] The first campsite of the Israelites after they crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, probably near Jericho (Josh. 4:19-24). [2] A village 11 km. (7 mi.) northeast of Bethel, from which Elijah and Elisha began their journey (2 Kings 2: 1-4; 4:38); present-day Jiljilia. [3] A town on the edge of the Plain of Sharon, about 8 km. (5 mi.) north-northeast of Antipatris (Josh. 10:6-9, 15). [4] A place on the northern boundary of Judah, near Debir (Josh. 15:7); perhaps the same as Geliloth.

**Giloh** ("he that overturns"), a town in the hill country of Judah, 8 km. (5 mi.) north-northwest of Hebron (Josh. 15:51).

**Gimzo** ("sycamore"), a town of northern Judah, about 5 km. (3 mi.) southeast of Lydda (2 Chron. 28: 18); modern Jimzu.

**Gittah-hepher.** *See* Gath-hepher.

**Gittaim** ("two winepresses"), a Benjamite town of refuge near Beeroth (Neh. 11:33); probably the site of modern el-Ramleh.

**Goath** ("constancy"), a site near Jerusalem (Jer. 31:39); its exact location is unknown.

**Gob** ("cistern"), a site of several battles during Israel's wars with the Philistines (2 Sam. 21:18); its exact location is unknown, but may be the same as Gezer or Gath.

**Golan** ("passage"), a city of Bashan east of the Jordan River, assigned to the Levites as a city of refuge (Deut. 4:43; Josh. 21:27). It is probably the site of modern Sam el-Jaulan, 27 km. (17 mi.) east of the Sea of Galilee.

**Golgotha [Calvary]** ("skull"), a hill just outside the walls of ancient Jerusalem; the site of Jesus' crucifixion (Matt. 27:33; John 19:17). Its exact location is unknown, but it was probably inside the walls of what is now called the "old city."

**Gomorrah** ("submersion"), one of the five Cities of the Plain destroyed along with Sodom (Gen. 18:20; 19:24,28). Many scholars believe it was submerged by the southeastern tip of the Dead Sea.

**Goshen** ("drawing near"). [1] A cattle raising district of the Nile delta assigned to the Israelites before they were placed in bondage (Gen. 46:28). [2] A town in the hill country of Judah (Josh. 15:51); probably modern Dahariyeh, about 21 km. (13 mi.) southwest of Hebron. [3] A region of Judah that probably derived its name from the town of Goshen (Josh. 10:41; 11:16).

**Gozan** ("food"), a district and town of Mesopotamia, located on the Habor River (2 Kings 17:6; 18:11). The KJV refers to it as a river, but this does not seem likely.

**Greece [Grecia]** (meaning uncertain), a country of Southern Europe between Italy and Asia Minor; one of



**Mount Gerizim.** Now called Jebel et-Tor, Gerizim remains the sacred mountain of the Samaritans, who have worshiped here for countless generations. According to Samaritan tradition, Gerizim is Mount Moriah, on which Abraham was instructed to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen. 22:2) and where God chose to reveal His name (Deut. 12:5). However, Jewish tradition identifies Mount Moriah with the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

the most powerful nations of the ancient world (Dan. 8:21; Zech. 9:13; Acts 16:1).

**Gudgodah** ("incision"), a place where the Israelites camped in the wilderness, near Engedi (Deut. 10:7); perhaps the same as Horhagidgad (q.v.).

**Gur** ("whelp"), a hill near Ibleam where Jehu killed Ahaziah (2 Kings 9:27).

**Gur-baal** ("dwelling place of Baal"), a desert district south of Beersheba between Canaan and the Arabian peninsula (2 Chron. 26:7).

End of the G's.

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