ALL THE PLACES OF THE BIBLE

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.

R

Raamah ("to constrain, humiliate "), a place near Ma'in in southwest Arabia (Ezek. 27:22). It is called Regma in inscriptions from that area. See also" All the People of the Bible. "

Raamses ("child of the sun"), one of the cities the Israelites built for the Egyptians (Exod. 1:11). It is thought to be San el-Hazar or modern Kantir.

Rabbah [Rabbath] ("great"). **[1]** The chief city of the Ammonites (Deut. 3:11; Josh. 13:25). It was located 37 km. (23 mi.) east of the Jordan River at the headwaters of the Jabbok. **[2]** A city in Judah near Kirjath-jearim (Josh. 15:60).

Rabbith ("great"), a boundary town of Issachar (Josh. 19:20). It is perhaps the present village of Raba 12.9 km. (8 mi.) south of Mount Gilboa.

Rachal [Carmel] ("to whisper"), a town in southern Judah (1 Sam. 30:29). The site is unknown. The Pentateuch calls it Carmel.

Rakkath ("empty"), a fortress city in Naphtali on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee (Josh. 19:35); probably Tell el-latiyeh,

Rakkon ("void"), a place near Joppa in the territory of Dan (Josh. 19:46).

Ramah [Rama] ("elevated"). **[1]** A town in Benjamin near Gibeah, Geba, and Bethel (Josh. 18:25; Judg. 4:5; Isa. 10:29; Matt. 2: 18). It has been identified as modern Er-Ram 8 km. (5 mi.) north of Jerusalem. **[2]** The town where Samuel was born (1 Sam 1:1). It is also called Ramathaim-zophim (1 Sam. 1:11). Its location is uncertain but has been identified with Ramah [1] and modern day Rentis, about 14.5 km. (9 mi.) northeast of Lydda. It may be Arimathea. **[3]** A frontier town of Asher (Josh. 19:29). If not the same as Ramah [4] it may be Rameh, about 20.9 km. (13 mi.) south-southeast of Tyre. **[4]** A fortified city of Naphtali (Josh. 19:36). The site may be modern Rameh, 27.4 km. (17 mi.) east-northeast of Accho. **[5]** *See* Ramoth-Gilead. **[6]** *See* Ramath.

Ramathaim-Zophim. *See* Ramah [2].

Ramath [Ramoth] ("height, elevation"), a city of Simeon called "Ramath of the South" (Josh. 19:8). It is now Kurnab. It is also called "Ramoth" in 1 Samuel 30:27.

Ramath-lehi. *See* Lehi.

Ramath-mizpeh ("place of the watch-tower"), a city of Gad in Gilead (Josh. 13:26). It was 24 km. (15 mi.) northwest of Rabbath of Ammon, at the Jabbok. It may be identical with Mizpeh [4].

Rameses ("child of the sun"), a fertile district of Egypt where the Israelites settled (Gen. 47: 11; Exod. 12:37). It was possibly the Land of Goshen.

Ramoth ("high places" or "heights"). **[1]** A Levitical city of Gilead in Gad (Deut. 4:43; Josh. 20:8). It is identical with Ramoth-gilead. **[2]** A city of Levi in Issachar (1 Chron. 6:37). It is identical with Jarmuth [2] and Remeth (q.v.). **[3]** *See* Ramath.

Ramoth-Gilead [Ramoth] (" heights of Gilead"), the chief city of Gad. It was a city of refuge ascribed to the Levites (1 Kings 4: 13; 22:4). Sometimes it is called simply Ramoth (Deut. 4:43; Josh 20:8). It has been identified with both Tell Ramith and Tell el-Hush.

Rechah ("uttermost part"), a village in Judah (1 Chron. 4: 12). Its location is not known.

Red Sea [Sea of Reeds], a sea that divides Egypt and Arabia. It was across this body of water that the Israelites escaped from Egypt (Exod. 10:19). The Hebrews called it the Sea of Deliverance; others called it the "Sea of Reeds."

Refuge, cities of. *See* Cities of Refuge.

Rehob. See Beth-rehob.

Rehoboth ("spaces"). **[1]** A well dug by Isaac in the Valley of Gerar (Gen. 26:22). It is probably modern Wadi Ruheibeh 30.6 km. (19 mi.) southwest of Beersheba. **[2]** A suburb of Nineveh (Gen. 10:11). **[3]** A city somewhere in northern Edom (Gen. 36:37; 1 Chron. 1:48). Its location is unidentified. *See also* "All the People of the Bible."

Roman forum. The forum was the ancient meeting place, marketplace, and political center of Rome. It was established about 500 B.C. in the valley between the Capitoline and Palatine hills. The city's legendary founder, Romulus, is said to be buried in the forum. Here Cicero spoke to the Senate and Julius Caesar was murdered. The forum's monumental architecture remained intact until the sixth century A.D., but has since been destroyed by war, vandals, and the ravages of nature.

Rekem ("mercy"), a city of Benjamin (Josh. 18:27). It is probably modern ar Kalandujeh.

Remeth ("height"), a city of the tribe of Issachar (Josh. 19:21); not to be confused with Ramath.

Remmon ("greatness"), a city belonging to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19:7).

Remmon-methoar [Rimmon] ("Remmon to Neah"), a place in Zebulun (Josh. 19:13). It is called Rimmon in 1Chronicles 6:77. It is north of Nazareth, and is now called Rummanah.

Rephaim, Valley of ("valley of giants"), the site in Judah where David defeated the Philistines (Isa. 17:5; 2 Sam. 5:18). It lies between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, southwest of Jerusalem and the Valley of Hinnom. It is probably the present-day Valley el-Bukaa.

Rephidim ("beds"), an Israelite encampment between the Wilderness of Sin and Mount Sinai (Exod. 17:1, 8). It may be the Wadi Refayid, northwest of Jebel Musa.

Resen ("bride"), a city between Nineveh and Calah in Assyria (Gen. 10:12).

Rezeph ("pavement"), a city of Syria taken by Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:12; Isa. 37: 12). It is perhaps the modern Rusafah several kilometers west of the Euphrates toward Palmyra.

Rhegium ("fracture"), a town located in southern Italy (Acts 28: 13). It was opposite Messina in Sicily and is now called Reggio.

Rhodes ("rose"), an island located off the coast of Caria in southwest Asia Minor (Acts 21: 1).

Riblah ("quarrel"). **[1]** A city on the Orontes where the sons of Zedekiah were slain (Jer. 39:5-7; 2 Kings 23:33). It was 80 km. (50 mi.) south of Hamath. It may be modern Ribleh in the Plain of Coelesyria. **[2]** A border city of the Promised Land (Num. 34: 11). It is perhaps modern Harmel northeast of the source of the Orontes.

Rimmon ("exalted"). **[1]** A town in southern Judah near Ain (Josh. 15:32; Zech. 14: 10). It has been identified with Khirbet Umm er-Ramamin 14.5 km. (9 mi.) north-northeast of Beersheba. **[2]** A rock near Gibeah where 600 men of Benjamin took refuge for four months (Judg. 20:45-47; 21:13). It is probably the detached limestone formation 5.6 km. (3.5 mi.) northeast of Bethel. Deep ravines prohibit any approach from the north, south, and west. **[3]** See Remmon-methoar.

Rimmon-parez ("pomegranates of the wrath"), the fifteenth encampment of the Israelites (Num. 33: 19). It is somewhere between Rithmah and Libnah and is possibly Nakt el-Biyar.

Rissah ("dew"), an encampment in the wilderness (Num. 33:21-22). It is probably modern Kuntilet el-Jerafi.

Rithmah ("noise"), the fourteenth encampment of Israel in the wilderness (Num. 33: 18). It is perhaps the same as Kadesh.

Rogelim ("footmen"), the dwelling place of Barzillai (2 Sam. 17:27). It was located in Gilead and is probably Bersiniya 8.8 km. (5.5 mi.) southwest of Irbid.

Rome ("city of Romulus"), the capital of the great Roman Empire (Acts 23: 11). It is located in Italy on the Tiber River.

Rumah ("exalted"), a town whose locality is uncertain (2 Kings 23:36). Perhaps it is Arumah near Shechem or Rumah [Khirbet Rumeh] in Galilee, 9.7 km. (6 mi.) north of Nazareth.

End of the R's.