

62 Adullam

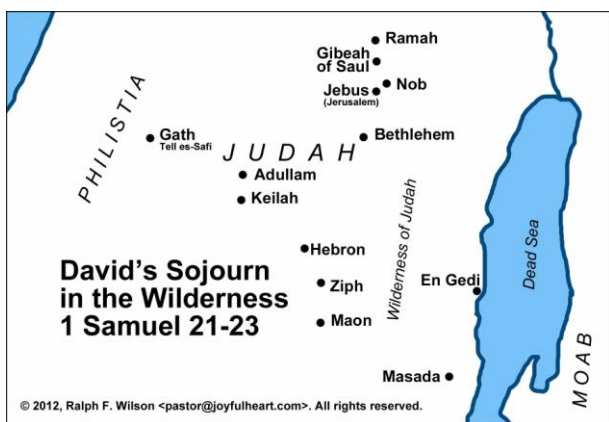
Names (also known as)

Hurvāt Adullam; Tall Ash-Shaykh Madhkūr; Tel ‘Adullam.

Etymology

Adullam - BDB = “justice of the people”. Hitchcock’s Bible Names says the meanings are possibly “their testimony; their prey; their ornament”.

Location/Description



The town of Adullam is located on an ancient highway in the Valley of Elah 36 kms southwest of Jerusalem.

The Cave of Adullam has supposedly been discovered about 5 kms south of this scene of David’s triumph, and about 20 kms west of Bethlehem. At this place is a hill some 160 metres high pierced with numerous caverns. Some of these caverns are large enough to hold 200 or 300 men (but not comfortably and not for long periods).

Scriptural references

Old Testament

Gen. 38:1,12; Josh. 12:15, 15:35; 1 Sam 22:1; 2 Sam. 23:13; 1 Chron. 11:15; 2 Chron. 11:7; Neh. 11:30; Mic. 1:15.

At least two of the psalms were composed during or concerning the time of David’s refuge at Adullam.

Psalm 57 - Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

Psalm 142 - Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave.



Famous characters

Judah
Joshua
David
Rehoboam

Brief history

Adullam first appears as the home of Hirah, a Canaanite friend of Judah, and the village of his wife. Judah married his wife, the daughter of Shuah from Adullam, after he and his brothers sold Joseph to the Midianites (Gen. 38:1).

When Israel came into the Land under Joshua, Adullam was a Canaanite royal city (Josh. 12:15; 15:35). Afterwards, it became one of the cities of the tribe of Judah (Josh. 15:20).

When jealous Saul tried to kill David, he fled to the wilderness of Judah, and eventually came to Adullam where he hid inside the cave together with his 400 followers.

"David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father’s house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men." (1 Sam. 22:1)

Rehoboam fortified the city (2 Chron. 11:5-12) and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine. It was captured however by Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak.

After the return of the exiles, Adullam was one of the cities resettled (Neh. 11:25,30).

Micah prophesied of the time when ‘the glory of Israel’ will come to Adullam when the heir comes to take his possession (Mic. 1:15).

During the Hasmonean revolt (2nd century BC), Judas Maccabeus took the fortified city from Gorgias, one of Antiochus IV Epiphanes' generals (2 Maccabees 12:38).



Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adullam>

(Compiler – John Tierney)