31 Medeba

Names (also known as)

Modern: Madaba

Etymology

מֵידְבָא - *mêydebâ'* – '*water of quiet*;' (Strong's)

BDB Def. = "water of rest"

From H4325 and H1679; - *mayim*, - dual of a primitive noun (but used in a singular sense); water; figuratively juice; and *dôbe'* - from an unused root (probably meaning to be sluggish, that is, restful); quiet: - strength.

Location/Description

Madaba is located 30 kilometres (19 miles) south-west of the capital of the kingdom of Jordan, Amman. Madaba is the capital city of Madaba Governorate in central Jordan, with a population of about 60,000. It is best known for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, especially a large Byzantine-era mosaic map of the Holy Land.

During its rule by the Roman and Byzantine empires from the 2nd to the 7th centuries, the city formed part of the Provincia Arabia set up by the Roman Emperor Trajan to replace the Nabataean kingdom of Petra.

The ruins are located about 29 kms (18 miles) east of the Dead Sea.

Scriptural references

Old Testament

Numbers 21:30, Joshua 13:9,16, 1 Chronicles 19:7, Isaiah 15:2
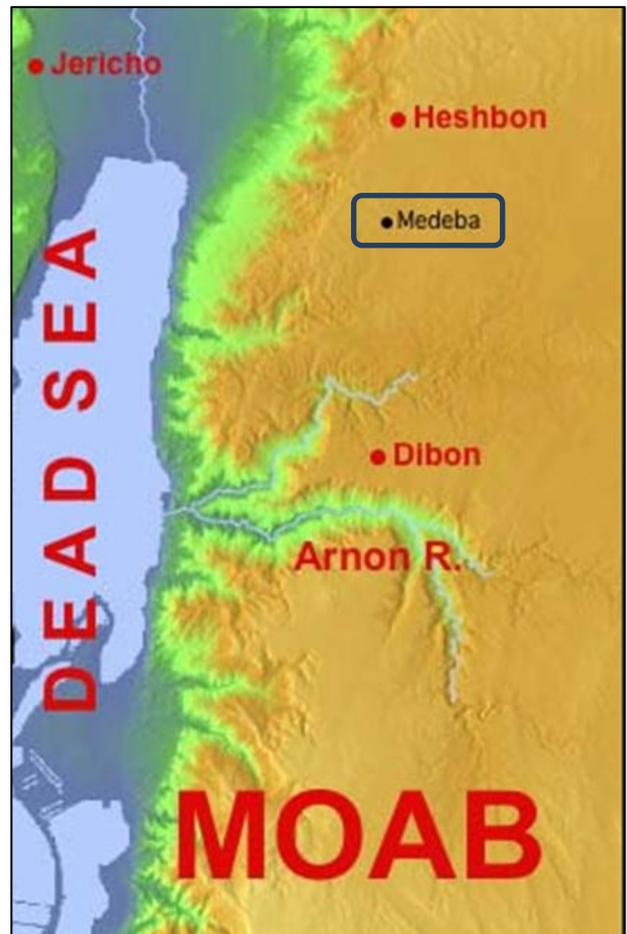
New Testament

None

Famous characters

The tribe of Rueben

Joab and the Ammonites

The Moabites

Brief history

The city of Medeba was a city of the Moabites, however when we are introduced to the city in Numbers 21:30, it is after the defeat of Sihon, king of the Amorites. Sihon we are told in Numbers 21, took the city from the former king of Moab.

The city was part of the inheritance given to the children of Rueben on the east side of the Jordan (Joshua 13:16).

In 1 Chronicles 19:1-15, the city had come under the control of the Ammonites. Medeba is the site of the battle between the alliance of the Moabites and the Syrians and the army of Israel, under the command of Joab and Abishai. Upon their defeat, the Ammonites found refuge in the city.

The last occurrence we read of the city is under the heading of 'the burden of Moab' in the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 15:2).

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba

(Compiler – Jeff Cooper)