

59 Zorah

Names (also known as)

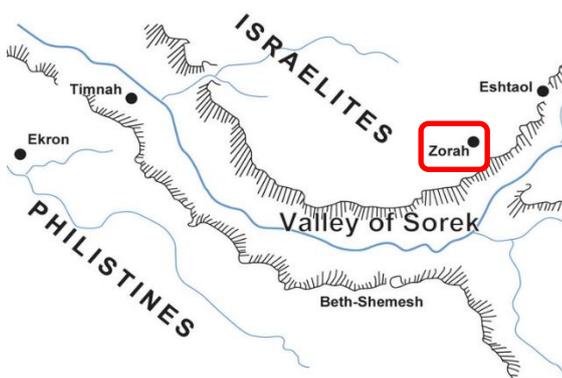
Zoreah, Tzora

Etymology

Strong's H6881 from root *tsir'ah* - a wasp (as stinging), 'to scourge' – hornet.

Location/Description

Zorah was situated on the edge of the hill country, 1500 feet (457 metres) above sea level, overlooking the valley of Sorek. Zorah was part of the inheritance given to Dan (Josh. 19:41). Zorah was the hometown of Manoah and his wife. Later in the record the city was listed as one that was fortified by Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:10).



Scriptural references

Old Testament

Joshua 19:41; Judges 13:2,25; 16:31; 18:2,8,11; 2 Chron. 11:10

Famous characters

Samson

Zorah in the life of Samson

In the typical structure of Judges, the story of Samson sets forth the principles of Gen. 3:15. Hence, "the woman" (Samson's mother) is not named because she represents the Divine mind in the warfare against the serpent mind.

Samson was intended to be a type of Christ. Phrases like "And the woman bare a son", and "the child grew, and Yahweh blessed him" point forward to Christ.

Together with Eshtaol (entreaties of the flesh), Zorah was one of the two towns that Samson was 'moved' between. "And the spirit of

Yahweh began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol" (Jud. 13:25).

The power of the spirit of God worked in the life of Samson to 'move' (agitate, trouble) him in the camp of Dan. A camp is a temporary abode, something that is not permanent. Dan means to judge between or to make a choice (see the origin of the name – Gen. 30:6). Samson's movement back and forth between Zorah and Eshtaol foreshadows the struggle occurring in the mind of a believer day by day between the appeals of the flesh and the demands of the spirit.

Therefore what is presented in passage is a type of our probation. In this probation, we are forced by the influence of the Word of God to make a judgment or a choice between right and wrong, between serving the flesh and serving the spirit.

Zorah represents the work or activity of the spirit. The meaning of the word reflects this in the idea of scourging, stinging and striking down the flesh like the 'hornets' that Yahweh sent before Israel (Josh. 24:12). This feeling is the experience of any who have submitted to the Word of God. They are compelled to engage in the enmity between the serpent and the woman.

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" - Gal 5:24.

In his victorious death Samson's agitation ceased and he was buried in Zorah. The spirit had finally triumphed in him.



The ruins of Zorah from the air

Sources:

Samson study series

(Compilers – Jeff Cooper/Jim Cowie)