





En-Gedi



1 Sam 23:29; 24; 2 Samuel 22; Song of Solomon 1:14; 2
Chronicles 20:1-2; Ezekiel 47:10 Ezekiel 47:10



En-Gedi



- ☞ En-Gedi means “spring of the goat” or “spring of the kid.”
- ☞ It gets this name from the freshwater spring located there and from the many wild goats (Ibex) which live in the area.
- ☞ En-Gedi is mentioned numerous times in the Old Testament:
 - ☞ Joshua 15:62 first mentions En-Gedi in the tribal allotment given to Judah.
 - ☞ When fleeing from Saul, David left his refuge in the wilderness for the strongholds of En Gedi (1 Sam 23:29).
 - ☞ In one of the caves there, David cut off the corner of Saul’s robe when he had entered to “relieve himself” (1 Samuel 24).

En-Gedi (Cont.)



- ✧ In 2 Samuel 22, David sings a song of praise to God for delivering him from Saul and in verse 2 calls God his rock, stronghold, and deliverer.
- ✧ The Song of Solomon (Song 1:14) describes En-Gedi as a vineyard ("fruitful of oasis") when talking about his beloved.
- ✧ 2 Chronicles 20:1-2 says that in the reign of Jehoshaphat (800 BC) during the Divided Monarchy, an army of Moabites and Ammonites camped at En-Gedi in preparation to invade Israel.
- ✧ Ezekiel prophesies a time when fresh waters will flow from the Temple in Jerusalem down to the Dead Sea and make the Dead Sea fresh: "From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets" (Ezekiel 47:10).



Wild goats (Ibex) at En-Gedi (January 2020)



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Mountains at En-Gedi (June 2022)



Mountains at En-Gedi / Filled with Caves (January 2020)



Wild goats (Ibex) at En-Gedi (January 2020)



Lower waterfall at En-Gedi (June 2022)



Waterfall at En-Gedi that flows from a natural spring (June 2022)



Navigating the trail up into the mountains at En-Gedi (June 2022)



View toward the Dead Sea from up on the mountain at En-Gedi (January 2020)



View toward the Dead Sea from up on the mountain at En-Gedi (June 2022)



Listening to a lesson about David from Dr. Rodney Cloud while on top of En-Gedi (January 2020)



“David Waterfall” at the top of En-Gedi (June 2022)



View toward the Dead Sea from the mountains at En-Gedi (June 2022)



Masada

Ω



Masada



- ❧ The name Masada means “fortress.”
- ❧ Masada is a mountain (mesa) that rises almost 1,500ft above the Dead Sea, but this is still just barely above sea level.
- ❧ Everything we know about Masada comes from Josephus and archaeological excavations.
- ❧ Herod the Great built two palaces on the mountain and fortified Masada between 37 and 31 BC.

Masada



- ✧ The palaces of Herod the Great were essentially abandoned by his sons after his death in 4 BC.
- ✧ The site was taken over by the Jewish zealots (the Sicarii: knife-wielding zealots) and became the last stronghold of the Great Jewish Revolt (66 to 73 AD). The Romans brought 8,000 troops to Masada in 73 AD and defeated the Jews.
- ✧ According to Josephus, the siege of Masada by Roman troops from 73 to 74 AD, at the end of the First Jewish–Roman War, ended in the mass suicide of the 960 Sicarii rebels who were hiding there. However, the archaeological evidence relevant to this event is ambiguous at best.



Masada – rising 1,500 ft above the Dead Sea (June 2022) – Note the "zig-zag snake path and the remains of the three-tiered palace on the right side of the mesa.



View of the Dead Sea and the Judean Wilderness from the top of Masada (January 2020)



Squares in the valley below the mountain where they have excavated the Roman encampments from when they brought 8,000 troops against Masada in 73 AD (January 2020)



The Snake Path and Snake Path Gate, from the time of Herod the Great, that were used to access Masada from the valley below. The Snake Path today is a hiking trail that provides access to the top of the mountain. (January 2020)



Column outside of the commander's house at Masada. Columns were made with multiple circular rocks stacked like pancakes, but then covered in plaster to make it look like it was one piece. Some of the excavations have found Hebrew inscriptions in the stones, which likely means that Herod used Jewish slaves to build Masada. (June 2022)



Inside of commander's house with painted plaster still covering the walls. Note the black restoration line (June 2022)



A quarry from the time of Herod the Great that was used to mine the rocks needed for building the palaces and other structures. (June 2022)



Northern Palace Complex (January 2020)



Northern Palace Complex - The storehouses. This storehouse had holes in the bottom that were silos for wheat and barley. It also had a two-handled jar for wine. (January 2020)



Northern Palace Complex – Terraces or Balconies / Picture taken from the upper terrace toward the middle and lower terraces / Built in “stair-steps” down the side of the mountain. (June 2022)



Model from the three terraces of the Northern Palace Complex (June 2022)



The remains of the three terraces today from the Northern Palace Complex (June 2022)



Channels and tunnels cut into the mesa for the collecting of rainwater into cisterns inside the Mesa (June 2022)



Channels and tunnels cut into the mesa for the collecting of rainwater into cisterns inside the Mesa (June 2022)



A bath house with the same 3 types of rooms from the bath house in Bet-She'an: (1) Cold room (2) Cool room (3) Hot room or sauna. (June 2022)



A mikvah that had been added by the Byzantine Christians who took over the site in the 5th century AD. (June 2022)



There was a very short and skinny door in the bath house between the cool room and the sauna. This may say something about the stature of Herod the Great. (June 2022)



In the Sauna, the floor was raised by series of short pillars. Fires were set through arches under the floor by the servants. Water was run under the floor and up the walls to make the surface hot and then cold water was poured on the walls and floor to make steam. (June 2022)



According to Josephus, when it became clear that the Romans were going to take over Masada, on April 15, 73 A.D., on the instructions of Ben Yair (in the synagogue), all but two women and five children, who hid in the cisterns and later told their stories, took their own lives rather than live as Roman slaves. Today it is hard to believe that the women in the cisterns could have heard what was being said in the Synagogue, which was relatively far away. (January 2020)



A synagogue from the time of the Jewish control of Masada. Josephus records that a speech was made at this synagogue by Eleazar ben Ya'ir during the Roman attack in 73 AD, and that 10 men were chosen to kill all the remaining Jews to prevent their capture (cast "Lots"). It seems almost impossible for Josephus to know this. Many today still hold to the traditional view of what happened at Masada, some modern scholars believe that Josephus adapted a story from his past when he was a Jewish commander, and that this "suicide" was a myth given to strengthen the state of Israel. My opinion is that all of the Jews at Masada died at the hands of the Romans. (June 2022)



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A section of the outer casement wall from the time of Herod the Great known as the “Casement of the Scrolls.” It was given this name because two of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found there. One of these two scrolls contained the passage from Ezekiel about the vision of the valley of the dry bones (Ezekiel 37). – June 2022



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The point where the Romans built a ramp and breached the casement wall during the attack in 73 AD. (January 2020)

The Dead Sea



Gen 14:3; Num 34:3, 12; Deut 3:17; 4:49;
Josh. 3:16, 12:3, 15:2, 5, 18:19;
2 Kgs 14:25; Ezek 47:18; Zech 14:8





The Dead Sea



- ☞ The Dead Sea is the lowest place in the world at 1,412 ft (430m) below sea level.
- ☞ The water in the Dead Sea is 36% salt, 8 times more than any ocean. Needless to say, nothing can grow in this lake. It is 50 km long, 18 km wide, and 300 m deep at its lowest point.
- ☞ The Dead Sea used to be much larger, but that since the flow of the Jordan River is now being controlled by a dam, the water in the Dead Sea is receding 1.5 meters every year.

The Dead Sea (Cont.)



- ☞ Scripture contains 16 references to the Dead Sea.
- ☞ It is referred to by the names “Salt Sea” (Gen 14:3; Num 34:3, 12; Deut 3:17; Josh. 3:16, 12:3, 15:2, 5, 18:19), “Sea of the Arabah” (Deut 3:17, 4:49; Josh 3:16, 12:3; 2 Kgs 14:25) and the “Eastern Sea” (Ezek 47:18; Zech 14:8).
- ☞ The names are used once each to communicate direction (*toward the*).
- ☞ Only once is the Dead Sea designated as a location (Gen 14:3).
- ☞ The remaining 12 references to the Dead Sea are used in the context of describing the borders of the promised land.



Sunrise at the Dead Sea (Southern End – Resort Area) – Ein Bokek (January 2020)



Salt on the bank of the Dead Sea, just south of Jericho (January 2020)



Salt on the bank of the Dead Sea, just south of Jericho / Wild goats (ibex) - (January 2020)



Floating on the Dead Sea (January 2020)



Floating on the Dead Sea (June 2022)



Rocks and salt crystals that line the bottom of the sea (January 2020)



Salt crystals that line the bottom of the sea (June 2022)



Sinkholes near the Dead Sea that are being caused by the rapid shrinking of the sea.
(June 2022)



Canals that are bringing water from the northern end of the Dead Sea to the resort area in the south. (January 2020)



Pools that are being used to collect water from the canals at the resort area in the south. (January 2020)



Pools that are being used to collect water from the canals at the resort area in the south. (January 2020)