













An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, showing the Temple Mount in the background with its walls and a large dome. In the foreground, there is a cemetery with many stone tombs. The city's skyline is visible in the distance.

Lessons From the...
Holy Lands

Lesson 7

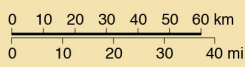
Tel Be'er Sheva, Valley of Elah, Herodium

ISRAEL • יִשְׂרָאֵל

-  National capital
-  District (mehoz) centre
-  City, town
-  Airport
-  International boundary
-  Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
-  Armistice Demarcation Line
-  District (mehoz) boundary
-  Main road
-  Secondary road
-  Railroad
-  Oil pipeline



- Districts of Israel**
- 1 Northern District
 - 2 Haifa District
 - 3 Central District
 - 4 Tel Aviv District
 - 5 Jerusalem District
 - 6 Southern District



Tel Be'er Sheva / Be'er Sheba



Genesis 21:25, 32-22; 22:19; 26:23, 25; 46:1

“From Dan to Beersheba” - Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20;
2 Samuel 3:10, 17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25;
1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5



Tel Be'er Sheva



- ✧ Tel Be'er Sheva lies east of the modern city of Be'er Sheba and west of the new Bedouin town of Tel Sheva.
- ✧ 15 strata have been discovered at this Tell, but most of what has been excavated, and is visible, is from the 9th century BC.
- ✧ The name of this ancient city is derived from "be'er," meaning "well or fountain" and "sheva," meaning "oath."
- ✧ Be'er Sheva (or Beer-sheba) is mentioned 33 times in the Bible.
- ✧ "From Dan to Beersheba" is a biblical phrase used nine times to refer to the settled areas of the Tribes of Israel between Dan in the North and Beersheba in the South (Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 3:10, 17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25; 1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5).

Tel Be'er Sheva (Cont.)



- ☞ It was a significant center in the patriarchal narratives:
 - ☞ Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba (Genesis 22:19)
 - ☞ Abraham and Abimelech entered a covenant at Beer-sheba (Genesis 21:32)
 - ☞ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beer-sheba (Gen 21:33).
 - ☞ The Lord spoke to both Isaac and Jacob, Abraham's son and grandson respectively, at Beer-sheba (Genesis 26:23; 46:1).
- ☞ Beer-sheba is the site of two significant wells from scripture: Abraham's well at Beer-sheba was seized by Abimelech's men (Genesis 21:25), and Isaac's servants dug a well at Beer-sheba also (Genesis 26:25).



















The Gate

The gate was constructed with
the same technique as
the other walls. It is
made of large stones and
is 1.5 m high. It is
located in the center of
the site and is the main
entrance to the site.



הדלת

הדלת הוקמה באותה
טכניקה כמו שאר
הקירות. היא בנויה
באבנים גדולות ויש
לה 1.5 מטר גובה. היא
מצויה במרכז האתר
והיא היבוא העיקרי
אל האתר.

















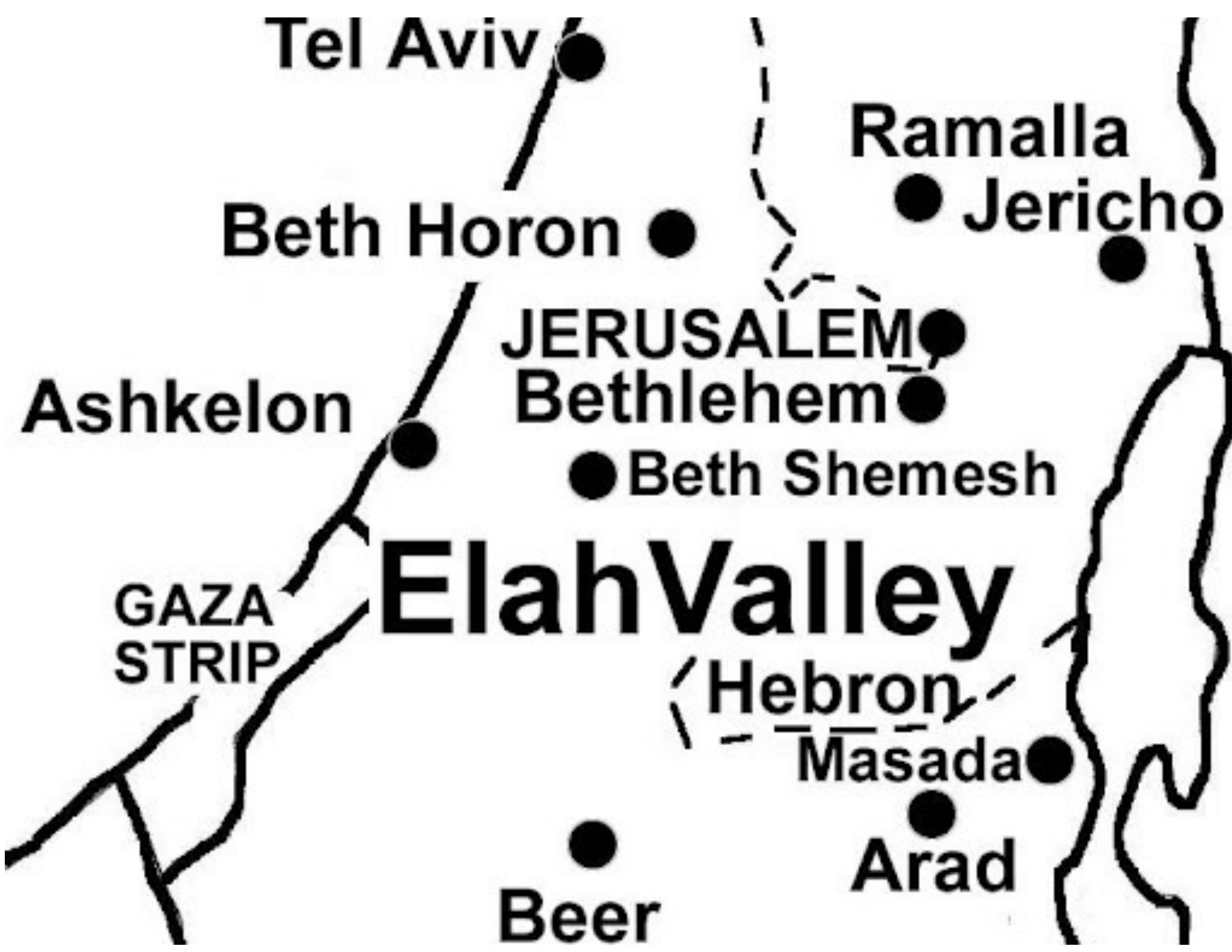




Valley of Elah



1 Samuel 17; 21:9



Tel Aviv

Beth Horon

Ramalla
Jericho

Ashkelon

JERUSALEM
Bethlehem

Beth Shemesh

GAZA
STRIP

Elah Valley

Hebron
Masada

Beer

Arad

Battle of the valley of Elah

Azekah ●
Tell ez-Zakariyeh

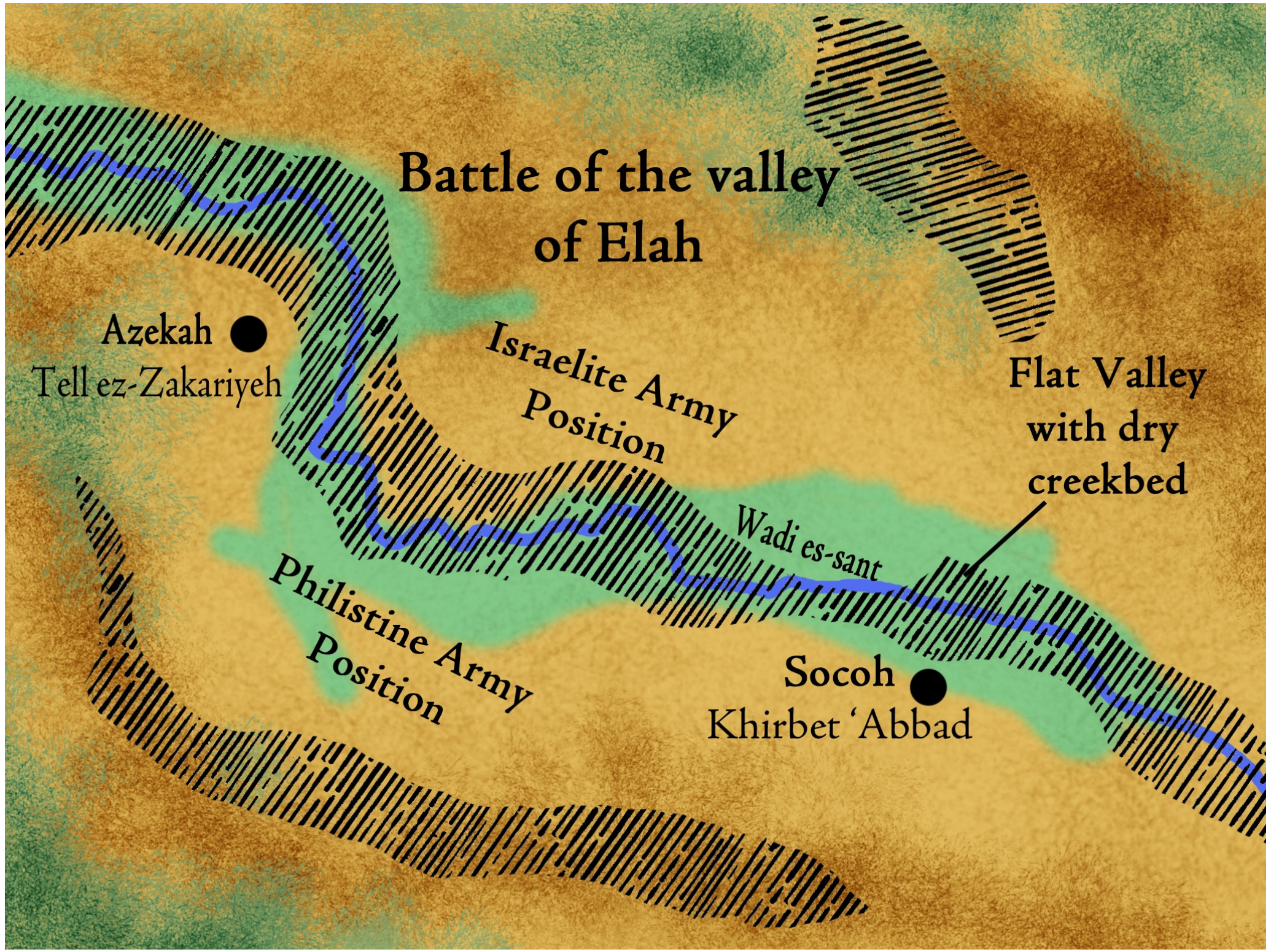
Israelite Army
Position

Flat Valley
with dry
creekbed

Wadi es-sant

Philistine Army
Position

Socoh ●
Khirbet 'Abbad



Valley of Elah



- ❧ The Valley of Elah is the modern Wadi es-Sant, and is the location where David killed Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 (Also mentioned in 21:9 in connection with the battle).
- ❧ It is home to several important archaeological sites, including those identified as the ancient towns of Azekah and Socho (1 Sam 17:1).
- ❧ The Valley of Elah ran east to west between Israelite and Philistine territory, with Gath to the west, which made it a likely spot for a clash between the two powers.
- ❧ In 1 Samuel 17, the Israelite forces were probably on the hills on the north side of the valley, with the Philistines opposite them.













Herodium



Herodium



- ❧ Herodium was the administrative center for Herod the Great. It is located 7.5 miles south of Jerusalem and 3.1 miles southeast of Bethlehem.
- ❧ The site is a large, man-made hill that looks like a volcano or an archaeological Tel, but was built by Herod the Great ~ 23 to 15 B.C.
- ❧ The mountain is 2,487 feet above sea level, the highest peak in the Judaeian desert.
- ❧ There was a fortress-palace on the top of the mountain, and at the bottom was a palace, bathhouse, and giant freshwater swimming pool. Herod the Great is also believed to have been buried there.
- ❧ A signet ring (bulla) of Pontius Pilate was found at Herodium.
- ❧ In the second century AD, Herodium was occupied by the Jews during the second Jewish revolt.

Oslo II Map Outlining Areas A, B, and C









דרך זו מובילה לשטח A
בשליטת הרשות הפלסטינאית
הכניסה לישראלים אסורה
מסכנת את חייכם
ומהווה עבירה פלילית

هذه الطريق تؤدي إلى منطقة (أ)
التابعة للسلطة الفلسطينية
الدخول للمواطنين الاسرائيليين
ممنوعة وخطرة على حياتهم
وتشكل مخالفة جنائية في حقهم

This Road leads To Area "A"
Under The Palestinian Authority
The Entrance For Israeli
Citizens Is Forbidden,
Dangerous To Your Lives
And Is Against The Israeli Law

שטח A
הכניסה אסורה
לישראלים
منطقة A
ممنوع دخول المواطنين
الإسرائيليين
Area "A"
Entry Forbidden
For Israeli Citizens











"טבעת פילאטוס"
בביתן החפירות באכסדרה ובארסן מצד הר הר הבית נטלה טבעת חותם עשויה ברונזה.
העלת יצורה של בלי יין סקסו וסמליו כחבטת בגימית שחוטמת "אל פילאוס".
פילאטוס היה כובץ ירודה בשלה הראשונה לספירה, אשר נבאחרו מלכו אל פילוס
התורוסים בעל ארוע של שידות אחרות הוקראו כגבני-סוסי את אמת היום.

The "Pontius Pilate Ring"
A bronze signet ring with an inscription in Greek deciphered as "of Pilate" was
unearthed during excavations of the esedra in the mountain palace fortress, by
an expedition headed by Prof. Gideon Fenster of the Hebrew University of
Jerusalem. The inscription surrounded a depiction of a ritual wine vessel. Pontius
Pilate was the Roman procurator in Judea in the first century AD, during whose
rule Jesus was crucified. Pilate was also known for having plundered the Temple
treasures to finance the renovation of aqueducts.







אבני דרדור

מימי המרדות ברומאים

حجارة متدحرجة

من فترة التمرد ضد الرومان

Rolling stones

from the time of the
Jewish revolts against the
Romans









































