

3. The Kingdom of Israel

A. Patriarchal Sites

When the Israelites entered the land, several sites were already significant from the Patriarchs' sojourn in the land of Canaan:

- **Shechem** (שֶׁכֶם): the oak of Moreh. Jacob settled here after returning from Paddan-Aram with Leah & Rachel (33:18).
- **Bethel**: here Jacob wrestled with the angel and was renamed Israel (ch 35).
- **Hebron** aka Kiriath-arba (קִרְיַת אַרְבַּע). Abraham settled here at the Oaks of Mamre (אֵלֵי מַמְרֵא) after Lot had chosen the Jordan Valley (בְּכַר הַיַּרְדֵּן). Hebron is one of Judaism's four holy cities (with Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed).
- **Beersheba**: Isaac lived here.

God repeatedly promised the land of Canaan (אֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן) to Abraham (Gen 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8). Though the Isaac and Jacob were born in the land, their wives were from Paddan-Aram.

Akedah (The Binding of Isaac): in the land of Moriah (אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרְיָה). Ab named the place Yhwh Yir'eh (Jehovah Jireh יְהוָה יִרְאֶה), saying "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided (יְהוָה יִרְאֶה 22:2,14). Mount Moriah would later be identified with the Temple Mount.

Burial sites

- **Hebron**: Abraham purchased the cave of Machpelah (מְעַרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה) from Ephron the Hittite as a burial place. Here were buried Sarah (23:19), Abraham (25:9), Isaac & Rebekah, Leah, Jacob (49:29-32; 50:13). Herod the Great built a large enclosure over the cave. Since 1967 divided:
 - synagogue: second-holiest site in Judaism (1st Temple Mount).
 - Ibrahimi Mosque**Hebron massacre**: In 1994 during Purim and Ramadan, Baruch Goldstein shot Muslim worshipers, killing 29, wounding 125. Hamas responded with its first suicide bombings against civilian targets in Israel.
- **Bethlehem**: Rachel died while birthing Benjamin and was buried where she died in Bethlehem/Ephrathah (35:19). Rachel's Tomb is third-holiest site in Judaism. Holy to Jews, Christians, Muslims, but

I. The United Kingdom

A. David

Battle with Goliath (1 Sam 17)

Death of Saul & Jonathan on Mt Gilboa; Philistines hung their bodies on the wall of Beth-shan. Taken down by men from Jabesh-gilead (1 Sam 31).

David was anointed king over Judah (2 Sam 2:1-7). For 7 years there was civil war between the houses of David & Saul (2:8-4:12), before he became king over all Israel. He immediately did three important things:

- captured Jerusalem
- defeated Philistines
- brought ark to Jerusalem

B. Solomon

1. Rule

- king מְלֹךְ over all Israel (1K 4:1). “Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy” (4:20). Dwelt in safety (בְּטוֹחַ) from Dan to Beersheba, every man under his own vine and fig tree (4:25/5:5).
- ruler מוֹשֵׁל over all the kingdoms from Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and the border of Egypt (מִן־הַנְּהָר אֲרָץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְעַד גְּבוּל מִצְרָיִם) 4:21 H5:1)
- ruler רֹדֵה over all regions beyond (westward) the Euphrates (עֵבֶר הַנְּהָר), from Tiphseh (on Euphrates) to Gaza.

He had peace שְׁלוֹמִים on all sides (4:24 H5:4).

2. Building Projects

Two Houses (1 Kings 5:1-9:14)

20 years to build two houses: the temple of the LORD (בְּיַת יְהוָה) and the royal palace (בְּיַת הַמֶּלֶךְ).

He conscripted the Canaanites into forced labor (מַס, *mas*, *corvée*) under Adoniram.

Requested Hiram king of Tyre to send cedars of Lebanon and cypress (5), paying him with 20 towns in Galilee (9:10-14).

- Temple (בְּיַת יְהוָה): Begun in 480th year (12 generations of 40 years) after exodus from Egypt (6:1), i.e. completes the Exodus. Took 7 years. 60 × 20 × 30 cubits
- Palace (בְּיַת הַמֶּלֶךְ): Solomon spent 13 years building the much bigger palace, probably interrupting the temple to build it: the building of the palace (7:1-12) is placed between the building of the temple (6) and its furnishing (7:13-51).

Other building projects:

Again Solomon used Canaanite forced labor. But he also used Israelite labor (סִבְלָל) under Jeroboam (11:28).

- Jerusalem: wall, supporting terraces (מִלּוֹא *Millo*).
- Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer. Pharaoh had captured Gezer and given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.
- chariot cities (עָרֵי הָרֶכֶב). 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, 12k horsemen.
- fleet of ships at Ezion-Geber, brought gold from Ophir.

II. The Divided Kingdom

A. Israel

B. Judah