

Helkath-Hazzurim

Helkath-Hazzurim (MT *Ḥelqat haṣṣūrīm*, “field of rocks”) is a place close to the pool of Gibeon where twelve soldiers of Joab fought twelve men of Abner

in a one-to-one combat that neither side could win (2 Sam 2:12–16), which meant that the battle between the armies of David and Ishboshet continued. As the meaning of the place name indicated above hardly matches the story, *haššūrim* is interpreted as “(sharp) rocks,” i.e., “flint knives, (sword)edges,” or “powerful” like in the Vg. (*ager robustorum*). A change of vowels (*haššārim*) creates the more adequate meaning “field of adversaries,” similarly LXX (μερίς τῶν ἐπιβούλων, “field of treacherous ones”). Thus a change of consonants (*haššiddim*, “sides”) is not necessary.

Bibliography: ■ Harkins, R. J., “Helkath-Hazzurim,” *NIDB* 2 (Nashville, Tenn. 2007) 792–793. ■ Kobayashi, Y., “Helkath-Hazzurim,” *ABD* 3 (New York 1992) 126–127. ■ Stoebe, H. J., *Das zweite Buch Samuelis* (KAT 8/2; Gütersloh 1994).

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