

## Idalah

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### Idalah

Idalah (MT *Yid'ālā*; commonly translated with “hand of cursing” or “memorial of God”, maybe related to Arab. *da'l* “jackal” or *ra'ala* “becoming big”) is a town in the western part of the territory of Zebulun between Shimron and Bethlehem (Josh 19:15). Idalah is emended to Iralah by certain manuscripts and ancient versions given the ready interchange of *Dālet* (*d*) and *Rēš* (*r*). The Talmud equates Idalah/Iralah with a site called Ḥawrayya [*yMeg* 1:1(70a)] usually identified with Ḥirbet el-Ḥuwwāra (1673.2365), southwest of Bethlehem. The LXX reads Jericho (Ιερουσα) instead of Idalah. Jerome

understands the name Idalah as composed of two words “hand – malediction” (*Nom. hebr.* 28.14) and relates it to Zebulun (*Sit.* 111.2).

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