

Michmash

Erasmus Gaß

Angaben zur Veröffentlichung / Publication details:

Gaß, Erasmus. 2020. "Michmash." In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its reception*, edited by Constance M. Furey, Brian Matz, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric J. Ziolkowski, 1171–72. Berlin: De Gruyter.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ebr.michmash>.

Nutzungsbedingungen / Terms of use:

licgercopyright

Dieses Dokument wird unter folgenden Bedingungen zur Verfügung gestellt: / This document is made available under these conditions:

Deutsches Urheberrecht

Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter: / For more information see:

<https://www.uni-augsburg.de/de/organisation/bibliothek/publizieren-zitieren-archivieren/publiz/>



Onom. 132.3–5). He also refers to the Benjaminite location Beth-aven, opposite Michmash (Eusebius, *Onom.* 50.24). Jerome translates Machemas as “humility or handled things” (Jerome, *Nom. Hebr.* 36.6).

Bibliography: ■ Abel, F.-M., *Géographie de la Palestine*, vol. 2 (EBib; Paris 1938). ■ Arnold, P. M., “Michmash (Place),” *ABD* 4 (New York 1992) 814–15. ■ Borée, W., *Die alten Ortsnamen Palästinas* (Hildesheim ²1968 [Leipzig ¹1930]). ■ Dalman, G., “Der Paß von Michmas,” *ZDPV* 27 (1904) 161–73. ■ Dietrich, W., *Samuel: 1Sam 13–26* (BKAT 8/2; Neukirchen-Vluyn 2015). ■ Lawlor, J. L., “Michmash,” *NIDB* 4 (Nashville, Tenn. 2009) 78–79. ■ Miller, J. M., “Saul’s Rise to Power,” *CBQ* 36 (1974) 157–74. ■ Reeg, G., *Die Ortsnamen Israels nach der rabbinischen Literatur* (TAVO B 51; Wiesbaden 1989). ■ Schwarzenbach, A. W., *Die geographische Terminologie im Hebräischen des Alten Testamentes* (Leiden 1954). ■ Simons, J. J., *The Geographical and Topographical Texts of the Old Testament* (SFSMD 2; Leiden 1959).

Erasmus Gaß

Michmash

Michmash (Heb. *Mikmās* or *Mikmās* [Gk. *Μαχμας* or *Μαχημας*] “hidden place”) is a Benjaminite town situated on the border to Ephraim. The place name Michmash appears in two variant forms, with *Mikmās* used only in postexilic texts that mention “the people of Michmash” returning from Babylonian exile (Ezra 2:27; Neh 7:31). The Philistines were mustered and encamped at Michmash (1 Sam 13:5, 11, 16), posing a serious threat to the emerging Israelites under Saul. Jonathan led an attack against Michmash after he had defeated a Philistine deputy at Geba (1 Sam 13–14). Between Michmash and Geba was the “Pass (of Michmash)” (1 Sam 13:23; Isa 10:28–29) which crossed the Wādī eṣ-Ṣwēnīt. This pass was flanked by two rock columns named Bozez and Seneh (1 Sam 14:4–5). Hence, Michmash lies on the north side of the Wādī eṣ-Ṣwēnīt. It is likely that the attacking Assyrian army traveled across the Wādī eṣ-Ṣwēnīt, leaving behind the baggage at Michmash (Isa 10:28–29). After the exile, Michmash was settled by Benjaminites (Neh 11:31).

Michmash has been identified with Muhmās (1763.1422) since the Hebrew *k* could be changed easily to *h*. Since the archaeological evidence is ambiguous, nearby Ḥirbet al-Ḥāra al-Fōqa (1762.1425) – where ceramics dating to the Iron Age I and II have been found – is identified with the biblical site. Later on, Michmash was the seat of the Hasmonean Jonathan (1 Macc 9:73 and Josephus, *Ant.* 13.34). It is also mentioned in rabbinic sources (*mMen* 8:1) and by Cyril of Skythopolis (*Vita Sabae* 16). Eusebius describes Michmash as a very large village nine miles away from Jerusalem, near Ramah (Eusebius,