

Mishal

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Mishal (MT *Mišāl* "place of inquiry"; LXX Βασελ-λαν) is a toponym assigned to the tribal allotment of Asher (Josh 19:26), although it is also designated as a levitical city for the Gershonites (Josh 21:30). In 1 Chr 6:59 the levitical city is rendered as Mashal (MT *Māšāl*). On the basis of the places in the immediate context, Mishal is located in the southern part of the plain of Acco north of Mt. Carmel, and therefore, the biblical place can be identified with Tell en-Nahl (1569.2449) or Tell Kēsān (1645.2532), both sites with archaeological evidence dating from the Middle Bronze to Iron Ages. However, Tell Kēsān is usually identified with the neighboring city of Achshaph. Although resembling the biblical name, Khirbet Miṭilia (1474.2385), with archaeological evidence starting from the Roman period onwards, is topographically impossible. Similar objections have to be raised against locating Mishal in the region of Jenin (1783.2074). Mishal may be mentioned as *mšjr* in various Egyptian texts with the final *r* substituting Semitic *l*: in the Egyptian Execrations texts (E 13, Posener: 71–72), in the Thutmose III list (No. 39), in other accounts of the military campaigns of this Pharaoh and in a list of the delivery of grain (pLen 1116A vs.73, Golénischeff: pl. XVII). Mishal is listed here with other places in the plain of Acco so that it can be equated with the biblical place. The Greek and Latin traditions have numerous transcriptions of Mishal. Eusebius calls it Μασαν and locates it in the inheritance of Asher. This place touches Carmel facing the sea and is a levitical city (Eusebius, *Onom.* 130.18–19). The Peshitta gives Mishal a theological interpretation ("God is ruler").

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