

(north), Misrephoth (west), and the valley of Mizpeh (east). However, this textual correction does not fit Josh 13:6, in which *mayim* constitutes part of the place name.

Misrephoth-maim is sometimes considered to be the ancient name of the river mouth of the Litani river. This is improbable since this landmark is mentioned as *n-t-n* in Papyrus Anastasi 1.21.1, testifying to the considerable age of the name "Litani." A site near the Litani called Serife (1873.2984) might preserve the biblical name, though the archaeological context there is unknown.

Misrephoth-maim is also identified with Khirbet el-Mušerife (1611.2764), located south of Rās en-Naqūra, due to the preservation of the biblical name in the modern toponym. However, the lack of archaeological evidence dating to the early Iron Age complicates this identification. Furthermore, the biblical place Mahalab, north of Khirbet el-Mušerife, is part of the tribal inheritance of Asher (Josh 19:29). Since Misrephoth-maim lies north of Mahalab and beyond the already conquered territory, Khirbet el-Mušerife can hardly be identified with the biblical place.

Eusebius simply gives two LXX transcriptions of Misrephoth-maim: "waters" or "sea" of Μα-στραφωθ (*Onom.* 128.7–8). Jerome translates the first part of this toponym with "firestorm or from trouble of beaks," the first being a nominal plural form of the root *ś-r-f*, the latter being an arbitrary connection of *min* + *śar* + *pah* in supposed plural (Jerome, *Nom. Hebr.* 28:28). In the Middle Ages, a place called Meserefe – perhaps the biblical Misrephoth-maim – was a fief of John d'Belin of Beirut.

**Bibliography:** ■ Abel, F.-M., *Géographie de la Palestine*, vol. 2 (EBib; Paris 1938). ■ Aharoni, Y., *The Land of the Bible* (Philadelphia, Pa. 1967). ■ Bekkum, K. van, *From Conquest to Coexistence* (CHANE 45; Leiden 2011). ■ Benjamin, P., "Misrephoth-Maim (Place)," *ABD* 4 (New York 1992) 873–74. ■ Borée, W., *Die alten Ortsnamen Palästinas* (Hildesheim 1968 [1930]). ■ Fritz, V., *Das Buch Josua* (HAT 1.7; Tübingen 1994). ■ Hawks, H. E., "Misrephoth-Maim," *NIDB* 4 (Nashville, Tenn. 2009) 111. ■ Na'aman, N., *Borders and Districts in Biblical Historiography* (JBS 4; Jerusalem 1986). ■ Rösel, H. N., *Joshua* (HCOT; Leuven 2011). ■ Schwarzenbach, A. W., *Die geographische Terminologie im Hebräischen des Alten Testaments* (Leiden 1954). ■ Simons, J. J., *The Geographical and Topographical Texts of the Old Testament* (SFSMD 2; Leiden 1959).

Erasmus Gaß

## Misrephoth-maim

Misrephoth-maim (*Misrēpōt mayim* "lime kiln at the sea" or "towering points") is a toponym delineating the border of the land still to be conquered by the Israelites in Josh 13:6. The name may be related to a root *ś-r-p*, "burn," which might indicate the presence of hot springs.

A coalition of foreign kings was chased into the territory of Great Sidon in the west and the valley of Mizpeh in the east, with Misrephoth-maim in between these two points (Josh 11:8). However, *mayim* could be vocalized *miyām*, "on the west," placing the term in opposition to *mizrāhā*, "eastward." This would indicate that Misrephoth is located near Sidon in the west and on the sea. If so, Josh 11:8 mentions three different cardinal directions: Sidon