

Nahalal

Nahalal (MT *Nahäläl*, “watering place”; LXX Νααλωλ/Σελλα) is a Levitical town in Zebulun in the northwestern part of the Esdraelon Plain (Josh 21:35) but missing in 1 Chr 6. Nahalal also belongs to the tribal allotment of Zebulun (Josh 19:15). The inhabitants of Nahalol – an alternative spelling for Nahalal – could not be expelled by the Zebulunites (Judg 1:30), maybe because it was a Canaanite for-

truss city. Eusebius mentions Nahalal as Νααλώλ, which is a city for the Levites in the tribal inheritance of Zebulun (*Onom.* 136.2–3). Eusebius knows about another Neela in the Batanaea (*Onom.* 136.6–7). Rabbinic tradition relates Nahalal to Mahālūl (yMeg 1:1). Due to its name and haplography, biblical Nahalal could be Tell en-Nahl (1569.2449), which contains archaeological evidence from the Bronze and Iron Ages as well as from the Persian period up to the Byzantine period. However, this site is located too far to the west and therefore outside the tribal allotment of Zebulun. Some scholars connect biblical Nahalal with Tell el-Beida (1688.2316), south of the modern Moshav Nahalal with Bronze and Iron Age remains. Due to its name form and the rabbinic sources, Ma'lul (1730.2334) is often identified as Nahalal. Excavations attest to remains of the Bronze and Iron Ages and later periods. Jerome translates the name Naalal with “they might praise,” and thus relates the biblical name to *h-l-l*, “to praise” (*Nom. hebr.* 29.14–15).

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