

Naarah (Place)

Erasmus Gaß

Angaben zur Veröffentlichung / Publication details:

Gaß, Erasmus. 2022. "Naarah (Place)." In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its reception*, edited by Constance M. Furey, Joel LeMon, Brian Matz, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric J. Ziolkowski, 513–14. Berlin: De Gruyter.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ebr.naarahplace>.

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/>



with abundant water so that Archelaus could take half of it for irrigation of his palm plantations (*Ant.* 17.340). The Jews of Naaran had trouble with the pagans of Jericho (*WayR* 23:5; *EkhR* 1:52; *MidShem* 16:1) and later with the anchorites of the nearby monastery of Douka (*Vita Charitonis* 21; *Di Segni*: 409). The late Jewish site of Naarah is usually identified with Tell el-Jisr (1903.1445) near two rich springs ('Ein Duyuq and 'Ein en-Nu'eime), which might be the "waters of Jericho" (*Josh* 16:1, but missing in LXX). Since the border runs from Jericho to these springs (*Josh* 16:1), Tell el-Jisr is located east of the border and thus on Benjaminites territory. The proximity to Roman Jericho and the Jewish settlement at Tell el-Jisr, indicated by an excavated synagogue, is in favor of this identification since Jewish villages are uncommon in that region. However, this late data does not support the identification of Naarah as a biblical border town, the more so as there is no archaeological evidence for an Iron Age site at Tell el-Jisr. Furthermore, Tell el-Jisr lies only four miles from Jericho, which contradicts Eusebius's information. Maybe the biblical site is to be located at an unnamed site (1933.1432) with Iron Age and Hellenistic ceramics near Khirbet el-Mafjar (1936.1432) that moved to Tell el-Jisr later on. Additionally, Khirbet el-'Ayash (1952.1502) and Tell el-Trūni (1888.1501) have been suggested due to their Iron Age and Roman-Byzantine remains, the latter having a water conduit to Archelais mentioned by Josephus (*Ant.* 17.340; 18.31). However, both sites are seven miles northwest of Roman Jericho. Moreover, Khirbet el-'Auja el-Fauqa (1879.1504) was recently suggested for identification, with archaeological remains mainly from the Iron Age.

Bibliography: ■ Abel, F.-M., *Géographie de la Palestine*, vol. 2 (EBib; Paris 1938). ■ Ahituv, S. et al., "To Jerusalem: A Seventh Century BCE Shipping Certificate," *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and Its Region* 10 (2016) 239–51. ■ Alt, A., "Das Institut im Jahre 1924," *PJ* 21 (1925) 5–58. ■ Ben-Shlomo, D. et al., "New Excavations at Khirbet 'Aujah el-Foqa and the Iron Age II Settlement," *In the Highland's Depth* 10 (2020) 11–35. ■ Boling, R. G., *Joshua* (AB 6; Garden City, NY 1988). ■ Borée, W., *Die alten Ortsnamen Palästinas* (Hildesheim 1968 [1930]). ■ Dalman, G., "Jahresbericht des Instituts für das Arbeitsjahr 1913/14," *PJ* 10 (1914) 1–50. ■ Di Segni, L., "The Life of Chariton," in *Asceic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity: A Sourcebook* (ed. V. L. Wimbush; SAC; Minneapolis, MN 1990) 393–421. ■ Fritz, V., *Das Buch Josua* (HAT 1/7; Tübingen 1994). ■ Glueck, N., *Explorations in Eastern Palestine*, vol. 4 (AASOR 25/28; New Haven, CT 1951). ■ Guthe, H., "Beiträge zur Ortskunde Palästinas," *ZDPV* 38 (1915) 41–49. ■ Kallai, Z., *Historical Geography of the Bible* (Jerusalem 1986). ■ Krauß, S., "Naara, Noaran," *ZDPV* 39 (1916) 94–97. ■ Porter, A. L., "Naarah," *NIDB* 4 (Nashville, TN 2009) 200. ■ Rösel, H. N., *Joshua* (HCOT; Leuven 2011). ■ Simons, J. J., *GTOT* (SFSMD 2; Leiden 1959). ■ Thompson, H. O., "Naarah (Place)," *ABD* 4 (New York 1992) 969. ■ Zadok, R., "On Five Biblical Names," *ZAW* 89 (1977) 266–86.

Naarah (Place)

Naarah (MT *Na'ārā* = watermill; LXX *Νααράν*) is a town on the south-eastern border of Ephraim and Manasseh near Jericho (*Josh* 16:7). Since Naarah is probably identical with Naaran (1 Chr 7:28), it most likely was an Ephraimite city. Naaran may be an Aramaic plural feminine form of Naarah. The form *Na'ārātā* in *Josh* 16:7 is usually interpreted as a toponym with a directive ending. However, *Na'ārātā* could also be an Aramaicized determined feminine plural form meaning "maids" (see bSot 46b for a similar etymology). According to Eusebius, Noorath is a Jewish village five miles from Jericho (*Onom.* 136.24–25). Josephus mentions Nara, presumably Naarah, as a village near Jericho which was supplied