

Heleph

Heleph (MT *Ḥēlep*, “surrogate site” or “site of sedge”) is located at the starting point of the southern border of Naphtali (Josh 19:33) from Mount Tabor eastward to the Jordan. It is usually identified with Ḥirbet ‘Arbita (1891.2366) (= “ruin of the reeds”) where pottery dating from the Iron Age II was found. Ḥirbet ‘Arbita is located at the intersection of the borders of Manasseh, Zebulun, and Naphtali. LXX and the Talmud (*yMeg* 1:1, 70a) wrongly interpret the prefixed mem as part of the name. Jerome translates Maalaf as “from 1000” or “from doctrine” (*Nom. hebr.* 29.9) and relates it to the border of Naphtali (*Onom.* 131.19).

Bibliography: • Saarisalo, A., *The Boundary between Issachar and Naphtali* (Helsinki 1927).

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