

Heres, Ascent of

Hebrew *ma'ālēh heḥāres*, “ascent of the sun” or “ascent of coarseness,” refers to the ascent south of the Jabbok taken by Gideon when returning from the successful pursuit of the Midianite kings Zebah and Zalmunna (Judg 8:13). Perhaps originally a place of worship for the sun god, it might be located at the northwest end of Ğebel Mēsarā, maybe the promontory near Tell ez-Zeġān (2103.1774). However, the Hebrew text is problematic. The article fronting *heres* speaks against the assumption that Heres is a toponym, and it could thus also be an adverbial phrase, “before the sun arose.” Some textual witnesses suggest corruption (“from up on top of the mountains”). Jerome translates Ares with “sun” (*Nom. hebr.* 31.16) and refers to textual variants (*Sit.* 33.8–9).

Bibliography: ■ Gaß, E., *Die Ortsnamen des Richterbuchs in historischer und redaktioneller Perspektive* (ADPV 35; Wiesbaden 2005). ■ Mittmann, S., “Die Steige des Sonnengottes (Ri.8,13),” *ZDPV* 81 (1965) 80–87.

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