

### **Idalah**

Idalah (MT *Yid'ālā*; commonly translated with “hand of cursing” or “memorial of God”, maybe related to Arab. *dā'l* “jackal” or *ra'ala* “becoming big”) is a town in the western part of the territory of Zebulun between Shimron and Bethlehem (Josh 19:15). Idalah is emended to Iralah by certain manuscripts and ancient versions given the ready interchange of *Dālet* (*d*) and *Rēš* (*r*). The Talmud equates Idalah/Iralah with a site called Ḥawrayya [*Meg* 1:1(70a)] usually identified with Ḥirbet el-Ḥuwwāra (1673.2365), southwest of Bethlehem. The LXX reads Jericho (Ιερουζω) instead of Idalah. Jerome

understands the name Idalah as composed of two words “hand – malediction” (*Nom. hebr.* 28.14) and relates it to Zebulun (*Sit.* 111.2).

**Bibliography:** ■ Abel, F.-M., *Géographie de la Palestine*, vol. 2 (EBib; Paris 1938). ■ Borée, W., *Die alten Ortsnamen Palästinas* (Leipzig 1968). ■ Butler, T. C., *Joshua* (WBC 7; Waco, Tex. 1983). ■ Kallai, Z., *Historical Geography of the Bible* (Jerusalem 1986). ■ Reeg, G., *Die Ortsnamen Israels nach der rabbinischen Literatur* (TAVO B 51; Wiesbaden 1989). ■ Simons, J. J., *The Geographical and Topographical Texts of the Old Testament* (SFSMD 2; Leiden 1959).

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