

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 Benjaminitic 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.

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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 Neara, presumably Naarah, as a village near Jericho which was supplied