

# Sorek Valley

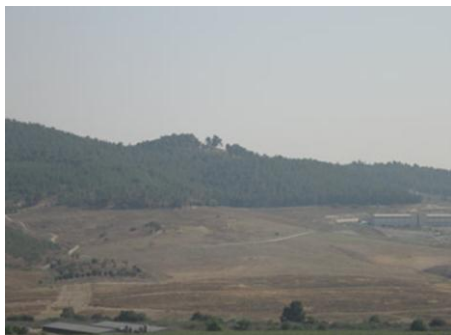
This valley stretches from the Judean Hill Country past Samson's birth place, past Beth Shemesh, and down into Philistine territory where it finally reaches the Shephelah and the Mediterranean Sea. It is one of the largest drainage basins, or wadis, from the Judean Hills. "Sorek" means "choice vine" from the root word meaning "red grapes."



Samson was born and buried in this valley. It was in this valley that Samson traveled to visit the Philistines, where the vineyards grew, where Samson killed the lion and where he tied the tails of 300 foxes together. It was in this valley that the cows pulled the cart sent from the Philistines to carry the Ark of the Covenant back to Israel. The Philistine city of Timnah sets on the west side of the Sorek Valley across from the Israelite city of Beth Shemesh which sets on the east side of the valley.

Today the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv railway runs in the Sorek Valley.

**In the Bible:** **Judges 16:4**, "Samson fell in love with a woman in the **Valley of Sorek** whose name was Delilah." **1Sm.6:9-21**, the cows pulled the cart with the Ark in it up the Sorek Valley straight to the Levitical city of Beth Shemesh. There in the valley the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat when the cart with the Ark stopped by a large rock in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. It is here God struck down the Israelites that looked into the Ark.



To the north of Beth Shemesh is the ancient city of Zorah (by the single tree in the middle). The city of Eshtaol is to the right



Toni stands in Beth Shemesh on the east side of the Sorek Valley while holding a sign identifying the Sorek Valley.