

Socoh (Soco)

Socoh was allotted to Judah and was located in the Shephelah between Adullam and Azekah. It is 17 miles West-Southwest from Jerusalem.

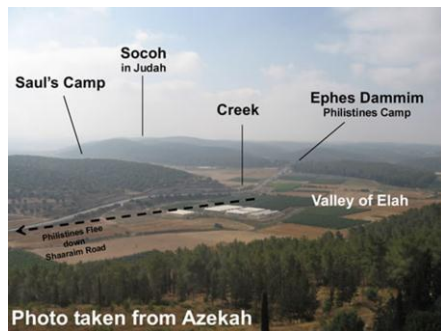
David killed Goliath near Socoh in the Elah Valley. The kings of Judah used it as an administrative center and stored products there. It is one of four cities named on the lamelech (LMLK) stamps found pressed into the



handles of pottery (see page 155). The word LMLK means “belonging to the king.” It seems this is the royal insignia of the Judean kings. Often the name of the city is included in the inscription which helps accurately identify the site being excavated.

Today ancient Socoh is called Givat HaTurmusim or Lupin Hill because in the spring this tel is covered with the wild blue Mountain lupins flower.

In the Bible: **Josh.15:35**, Socoh is in Judah between Adullam and Azekah; **1 Sm.17:1**, David fought Goliath near Socoh; **2 Chr.11:7**, Rehoboam fortified it for Judah; **2Chr.28:18**, Philistines took Socoh from King Ahaz;



Socoh and the Valley of Elah



Socoh as seen from Azekiah looking over the Elah Valley