

Zorah

Zorah, allotted to the tribe of Judah. It sat on the top of a hill overlooking the Sorek Valley. Zorah is 15 miles from Jerusalem and was fortified in 2 Chron. 11:10 by Rehoboam. Zorah is mentioned in the Amarna letters written from Canaan to Egypt around the 1400's BC asking for help from invaders.



Zorah is the name of the Egyptian sun god, which is interesting because the name of two neighboring towns (as seen in the photo below) have similar pagan meanings and etymologies: Eshtaol means “valley of fire” and Beth Shemesh means “house of sun”.

In the Bible: Joshua 15:33, allotted to Judah; **Joshua 19:41**, Zorah is allotted to Dan, but is on Judah's border with Dan; **Judges 18:2**, Dan occupied Zorah; **Judges 13:2**, Samson was born here and his father Manoah, was from the tribe of Dan; **Judges 13:25**, Samson lived his life in the area; **Judges 16:31**, Samson was buried near Zorah; **2 Chron.11:10**, Rehoboam fortified Zorah; **Neh.11:29**, exiles returning from Babylon settled in Zorah.



Galyn walks through the tel of Beth Shemesh with Zorah on the other side of the Sorek Valley.