

Timnah

Timnah was a Philistine city in allotted to the tribe of Dan. It is strategically located in the Sorek Valley as travelers would pass from the Coastal Plain by the Mediterranean Sea through the Shephelah and into the land of Judah and the Judean Mountains. Timnah is 21 miles SE of Tel Aviv.



Excavation took place here 1977-79 by Amihai Mazar and George L. Kelm. First settled in the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1550 BC). There were 12 layers of strata showing continuous dwelling from its beginning until the Hellenistic Age. The strata from the time of the kings of Judah 700-600 BC provided a LMLK stamp on a ceramic potsherd which indicated it was from the royal store house. The remains of a Roman road can be seen on the edge of the Sorek Valley near the site of the tel along with the remains of the Chalcolithic and Canaanite settlements.

In the Bible: **Genesis 38:12-14**, Judah goes to Timnah to shear sheep but sleeps with his daughter-in-law who had disguised herself as a prostitute at Enaim which is on the road to Timnah; **Joshua 15:10**, Timnah is on the border of Judah; **Joshua 19:43**, allotted to Dan; **Judges 14**, Samson went to Timnah to find a wife and killed a lion on the way. In Timnah Samson marries a Philistine girl; **2 Ch.28:18;26:6**, controlled at times by Philistia and other times by Judah.



Toni holds a sign in Beth Shemesh identifying the Sorek Valley with Timnah setting on the edge.