

# Lamelech Seal Impressions

Jar handles stamped with the ancient Hebrew word “LMLK” are called ***lamelech***. 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. Below is a list of the top 20 sites where the Lamelech seals have been found along with the number found. Most sites are from the southern kingdom of Judah (total of 71), but the northern kingdom has had 4 sites:

- 415 Lachish
- 281 Jerusalem
- 163 Ramat Rahel
- 92 Gibeon
- 88 Mizpah
- 71 Beth Shemesh
- 39 Moresheth-Gath
- 37 Gezer
- 24 Khirbet el-Burj (northwest suburb of modern Jerusalem)
- 19 Mareshah
- 17 Azekah
- 15 Timnah
- 14 Gibeon
- 13 Tel Erani
- 13 Hebron
- 13 Sokho (Socoh, Khirbet Abbad NW of Hebron, not Sokoh SW of Hebron)
- 11 Beth Zur
- 9 Arad
- 8 Nahal Tut
- 6 Gath (city)



These are not marked with the Lamelech seal, but are handles.