

## JUDEA & SAMARIA

# *From the Bible through History*

[Adapted from My Yesha's JUDEA AND SAMARIA IT'S JEWISH | IT'S VITAL | IT'S REALISTIC](#)



Map of the Twelve Tribes of Israel - Wikipedia

## Judea & Samaria - From the Bible through History

Since the dawn of history, Judea and Samaria have served as the spiritual, national and political center of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel.

Judea and Samaria – the Promised Land Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forefathers of the Jewish nation, dwelt in the mountains of Judea and Samaria, residing in Shechem, Elon Moreh, Beit El (Bethel) and Hebron. It was in Judea and Samaria that G-d promised to give Abraham the land for his descendants as an everlasting covenant, and so it was forever named **“The Promised Land.”**

When the Israelites came out of Egypt as a nation, they settled mainly in the mountain areas, predominantly in the allotted portions and cities of Benjamin, Ephraim, Menashe and Judea. From every part of the land, members of the twelve tribes would gather at the tabernacle in Shilo to worship.

After the destruction of the First Temple and a brief period of exile, the Jewish People returned to their land, once again settling in Jerusalem and in the mountainous areas surrounding it. In the days of the Maccabees, King Herod and the Revolt against Rome, Judea and Samaria continued to lie at the center of Jewish life in Israel. The cities of Herodium, Beitar, Maale Beit Horon and the Maccabean city and stronghold of Modiin are just some of the place where Jews dwelt in the Greek and Roman periods.

For hundreds of years following the destruction of the Holy Second Temple, Jews still made their homes in Susya in the south and to Ein Ganim (Jenin) to the north. We can say with certainty that throughout the annals of history Judea and Samaria have always been the heartland of Jewish life in the Land of Israel.



Detail from "The Story of Hanukkah" by Ori Sherman.  
 (Magnes Collection of Jewish Art, University of California, Berkeley)



A Jewish family who immigrated to Israel from the Caucasus at the turn of the 20th century

As conquerors came and went, the Jewish people always prayed to be mercifully restored to the Land of Zion and Jerusalem.

The Continued Efforts to Renew the Jewish Presence in Judea and Samaria Since the Jewish People began returning home, from the 18th-century immigration of the disciples of the Vilna Gaon through the subsequent waves of immigrations up until the War of Independence, many attempts were made to create a permanent Jewish presence in the mountain areas of Judea and Samaria. There were Jewish communities in Shechem, Atarot and a historic community in Hebron, until it was evacuated in wake of the Arabs Massacre of Hebron's Jewish population in 1929.

In 1906, the family of young Moshe Sharett made their home in Ein Sinya. In Gush Etzion, the Jewish communities built before the establishment of the state fell defending Jerusalem on May 14th, 1948, the day that the state was born.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Judea & Samaria

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