

Samaria



- Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and was often called the “Kingdom of “ Samaria.” Also the name for the entire region.
- By way of location, Samaria is located on a hilltop:
 - Some twenty-five miles east of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Forty-two miles north of Jerusalem.
 - Six-and-one-half miles northwest of Shechem, the first capital of the northern kingdom of Israel.
- The Hebrew word for Samaria means “watch tower.”
- The city comprised about twenty acres.
- Samaria is mentioned some 125 times in the Bible, mostly in the Old Testament.
- The word “Samaritan” is used three times in the singular and seven times in the plural.
- Last city to fall to the Assyrians. Sargon deported 27,290 people to Samaria.
- Sebaste, ancient city of Samaria. “Sebaste” is Greek for Augustus.

Samaria in the Old Testament

- The name “Samaria” is explained in **1 Kings 16:24** as being derived from Shemer, the name of the former owner of the land. Omri, king of Israel from 885 to 874 B.C., reigned for a total of twelve years, of which the last six were from Samaria. He had purchased the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver.
- In prophecy against Israel, Samaria is often used to designate the entire northern kingdom. **Isaiah 7:9; Amos 3:9; 8:14**
- King Ahab and his Sidonian wife, Jezebel, lived at Samaria. Both were wicked.

- **1 Kings 22:39** makes reference to Ahab' house of ivory. **Amos 6:4** refers to the Archaeologists have uncovered hundreds of fragments of ivory from Ahab's palace..
- Sebaste, after it was rebuilt following the Assyrian captivity, was later given to Herod by the Roman Emperor, Augustus. This took place on the summit of the hill. Herod erected a temple to Augustus over what is thought to have been the ruins of Ahab's palace. The temple forecourt was about 240 feet square and was approached by a staircase 92 feet wide. **1 Kings 22:37-38**
- (This is the same Herod that built the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.)
- Ezra and Nehemiah rejected the offer of the Samaritans to help rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. **Ezra 4:1-3**

Samaria in the New Testament

- Samaria was the middle section of ancient Palestine.
 - Bordered on the north by Galilee.
 - Bordered on the south by Judea.
 - Measured approximately 40 miles from north to south.
 - Measured approximately 35 miles from east to west.
- The woman at the well said in **John 4:9** – “Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.”
- The Jews asked Jesus if He was a Samaritan with a devil.
- **Luke 9:51-56** — “it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,
 - 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.
 - 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.
 - 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"
 - 55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.
 - 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.
- Story of the “Good Samaritan.” **Luke 10:25-37**
- When the 10 lepers were healed, the one who turned and thanked Jesus was a Samaritan. **Luke 17:16**
- Just before His ascension, Jesus said in **Acts 1:8** - “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses

to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- When the early Christians were scattered from Jerusalem, Philip went to a city of Samaria and preached the gospel. The response was great. **Acts 8:5**
- Simon the sorcerer lived here. **Acts 8:4.25**
- Paul and Barnabas passed through Samaria on their way to the meeting in Jerusalem. **Acts 15:3** – “So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.”

