

20 Elim

Names (also known as)

Elim - Hebrew: עֵלִים , 'elim

Etymology

Possibly from a Semitic root meaning 'gods'.

Strong's H362 *eylim* - palms. From the same root as the Divine title *El* (Ail).

Root word - '*ayil* - strength; hence anything strong; a chief; also a ram (from his strength); a post (as a strong support); an oak or other strong tree.

Ayil is translated "mighty men" in Ex. 15:15; "mighty" 2 Kings 24:15, Ezek. 17:13; "oaks" Isa. 1:29; "trees" (of righteousness) Isa. 61:3; "mighty one" Ezek. 31:11; "trees" Ezek. 31:14; "posts" many times in Ezekiel's Temple; but predominantly "rams" (156) in O.T.

Scriptural references

Old Testament

Exodus 15:27; 16:1; Numbers 33:9-10.

Location/Description



Elim was the 7th station of Israel's Exodus out of Egypt (commencing with Rameses – see Num. 33).

Unusually for the barren wilderness it was a large oasis and had “twelve wells of water and seventy date palms”.

From Ex. 15:27; 16:1 & Num. 33:9-11, Elim is described as being between Marah and the Wilderness of Sin, near the eastern shore of the Red Sea. It is generally thought to have been located in Wadi Gharandel, an oasis 100 kms southeast of Suez (note a wadi is a seasonal stream, that flows down from the nearby mountains after rain).

In 1907 geologist Thomas Barron observed 12 springs at this site along with Palm trees.



Brief history

It appears Israel stayed here for 1 month before moving on to the wilderness of Sin - Ex. 16:1. From Elim they journeyed to the “sea of weeds” - Num 33:10.



Elim – Place of the Mighty Ones

After the ‘bitter’ trials of Marah, Elim (“the place of mighty ones”) presented a vision of the Kingdom. It pointed to the Millennium with its 12 fountains (eyes – representing the restored tribes of Israel) and 70 palm trees (representing the subdued nations).

Genesis 10

70 nations from Shem, Ham and Japheth

Vv.2-5	14 nations from Japheth
Vv.6-20	30 nations from Ham
Vv.21-32	<u>26</u> nations from Shem
Total	<u>70</u>

(Key - Count names only once and omit Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and the names of cities)

The palm tree represents a righteous man – Ps. 92:12. In Ex. 15:27 - “palm” - *tâmâr* - palm tree, date palm was used in the Feast of Tabernacles - Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:15. This feast prefigured the inclusion of all nations into the nation of Israel during the Millennium. Seventy bullocks were offered over the course of seven days, but on the 8th day only one bullock, pointing to the ultimate goal in the 8th Millennium – all nations subsumed into Israel the only surviving nation.

Feast of Tabernacles - The Ingathering

Seven days - 15th to 21st day of Tishri (7th month)

Day 1 - (Num. 29:13)	13	bullocks offered
Day 2 - (v.17)	12	
Day 3 - (v.20)	11	
Day 4 - (v.23)	10	
Day 5 - (v.26)	9	
Day 6 - (v.29)	8	
Day 7 - (v.32)	7 = Total 70 (The Nations)	

8th Day - One bullock offered (Num.29:35-36) – “That great day of the feast” – John 7:37.

The vision of Elim is that of Isa. 12:3 – “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” The humbled nations will look to Israel as the source of salvation on the Divine principle of the Jew first and then the Gentile.

Israel and the Nations

The Jew first Then the Gentiles

12 = Israel

Ex.15:27 – Elim
12 wells of water

Luke 9:1

12 disciples sent to preach

Rev. 7:4-8

Perfect Israel - The Redeemed

70 = Gentiles

70 palm trees

Luke 10:1

70 disciples sent to preach

Rev. 7:9

Redeemed out of all nations

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elim_\(Bible\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elim_(Bible))
Bible History – Alfred Edersheim
Sinai Journeys, The Route of the Exodus pp. 355-356.

(Compilers – Ian Macfarlane/Jim Cowie)