

96 Ophrah

Names (also known as)

Ferata

Etymology

Strong's H6084 - Pronounced (*ahf' ruh*) - means 'a fawn'.

Location/Description



"Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites," was a city of Manasseh, 6 miles (10 km) south-west of Shechem, the residence of Gideon (Judges 6:11; 8:27,32). It is identified today with Ferata.

There is another view that it was further north towards the Valley of Jezreel because Gideon and his kinsmen smarted under the near presence of the oppressing Midianites. Manasseh, with its northern border on the southern edge of the plain, was in close touch with the annual invaders.

The Ophrah of Gideon is not to be confused with Ophrah in Benjamin referred to in Josh. 18:23; 1 Sam. 13:17. The latter was well known to Saul and he probably sought his father's lost asses in this area.

Scriptural references

Old Testament

Josh. 6:11,24; 8:27,32; 9:5.

Famous characters

Gideon

Brief history

Ophrah in Manasseh was the native place of Gideon (Jud. 6:11), and the place of his burial in the family sepulchre (Jud. 8:32).

This is the scene of the exploits of Gideon against Baal (Jud. 6:24).

After Gideon's great victory over the Midianites, he slew at this place the captive kings (Jud. 8:18-21). He then made an ephod, and Ophrah became what Shiloh should have been. This thing "became a snare" to Gideon and his house. After Gideon's death his family resided here until they were put to death by Gideon's son Abimelech (Jud. 9:5).

Sources:

<http://biblehub.com/topical/o/ophrah.htm>
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ophrah

(Compilers – Stephen Macfarlane/Jim Cowie)