

# 33 Succoth

## Names (also known as)

Tell Deir Alla – the modern name of the place named by Jacob.

The name of a place in Egypt - Ex.12:37 – the 1st stopping place of the Israelites when they left Egypt. That Succoth is not the subject of this document.

## Etymology

Strong’s H5523 - *sūkkôth* – booths. BDB - “booths”.

## Location/Description



Succoth is a city east of the Jordan River, identified with Tell Deir Alla, a high mound, a mass of debris on the plain north of Jabbok and about 1.6 kms (1 mile) from it (Josh. 13:27). This is where Jacob, on his return from Padan-aram after his encounter with Esau, built a house for himself and made *sukkot* (booths) for his cattle (Gen. 33:17).

## Scriptural references

### Old Testament

Gen. 33:17; Josh. 13:27; Judges 8:5,6,8,14, 15,16; 1 Kings 7:46; 2 Chron. 4:17; Ps. 60:6; 108:7.



## Brief History

An ancient town, first heard of in the account of the homeward journey of Jacob from Padan-aram (Gen. 35:17). The name is derived from Jacob erecting temporary "booths" (*succoth*) for his cattle as well as a shelter for himself. From the itinerary of Jacob's return it seems that Succoth lay between Peniel, near the ford of the torrent Jabbok and Shechem (Cp. Gen. 32:30 and 33:18).

In accordance with this is the mention of Succoth in the narrative of Gideon's pursuit of Zebah and Zalluunna (Judges 5:5-17). It is evident from this passage that it lay east of the Jordan, which is corroborated by the fact that it was allotted to the tribe of Gad (Josh. 13:27).

Succoth is named once again in the records of Solomon's smelting works - 1 Kings 7:46; 2 Chronicles 4:17. This is where the brass foundries were placed for casting the metal work of the temple. Dr. Merrill identifies it with a site called Tell Darala, one mile north of the Jabbok.

## Sources:

- Smith's Bible Dictionary
- Biblehub
- Wikipedia

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