Jarmuth

1. Town in Issachar

Jarmuth (MT *Yarmût* "height" or "swelling in the ground") is a Levitical town in Issachar allocated to the Gershonites (Josh 21 : 29). Jarmuth might be identified with Remeth (Josh 19 : 21) and Ramoth (1 Chr 6 : 58) with Ramoth being the basic name of the toponym. Jarmuth is tentatively identified with *Kōkab el-Hawā'* (1994.2218), since a stele of Seti I found at Beth-Shean mentions a two-day military mission against the 'Apiru from Mount Yarmuta who attacked Rehem. *Kōkab el-Hawā'* is a prominent hill close to Beth-Shean with a Crusader fortress that has obliterated earlier Bronze and Iron Age remains. South of *Kōkab el-Hawā'* is a Bronze and Iron Age site near *'Ēn el-Ǧirānī* (1996.2218) that could be identified with biblical Jarmuth. The earlier identification *er-Rāme* (1663.1956) lies outside Issachar. Jarmuth of Issachar is also mentioned in the execration texts. The LXX refers to this town by further names (Ρεμμαθ, Ρεμμας, Ραμαθ). Jerome translates *Ierimoth* with "fearing death" or "altitude of death" (*Nom. hebr.* 28.5), he repeats the biblical description and adds a further occurrence, in Hos 5 : 8 which is erroneous (*Sit.* 111.3–4).

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2. Canaanite Town

Jarmuth (MT *Yarmût*) is a Canaanite Town in the Judean Shephelah. According to the book of Joshua, Piram, king of Jarmuth (Josh 10 : 3, 5, 23; 12 : 11), joined the Southern coalition against Joshua, but failed and was executed. Jarmuth was allotted to Judah (Josh 15 : 35) and reoccupied after the Exile (Neh 11 : 29). The site is securely identified with *Ḥirbet Yarmūk* (1478.1241) between the Sorek and Elah Valleys due to its location, its settlement history and name preservation. *Ḥirbet Yarmūk* was first settled in the Early Bronze Age (acropolis and lower city) being one of the best fortified cities in Palestine with monumental architecture. After a gap of settlement *Ḥirbet Yarmūk* was resettled only on the acropolis in the Late Bronze Age till the Early Byzantine period. Jarmuth might be mentioned in an Amarna letter found at *Tell el-Ḥesi* (EA 333 : 10: *Yaramu*). Jerome refers to a place called *Iermus/Iermucha*, 10 miles distant from Eleutheropolis on the ascent to Jerusalem (*Sit.* 107.23–24). The spelling *Iermucha*

has survived to the present (*Yarmūk*). According to Jerome another *Iarimuth*, a city destroyed by Joshua, lies 4 miles distant from Eleutheropolis (14 miles according to Procope of Gaza) near the village of Eshtaol (*Sit.* 107.10–11). This place might be identified with *Ḥirbet Marmītā* (1514.1304).

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