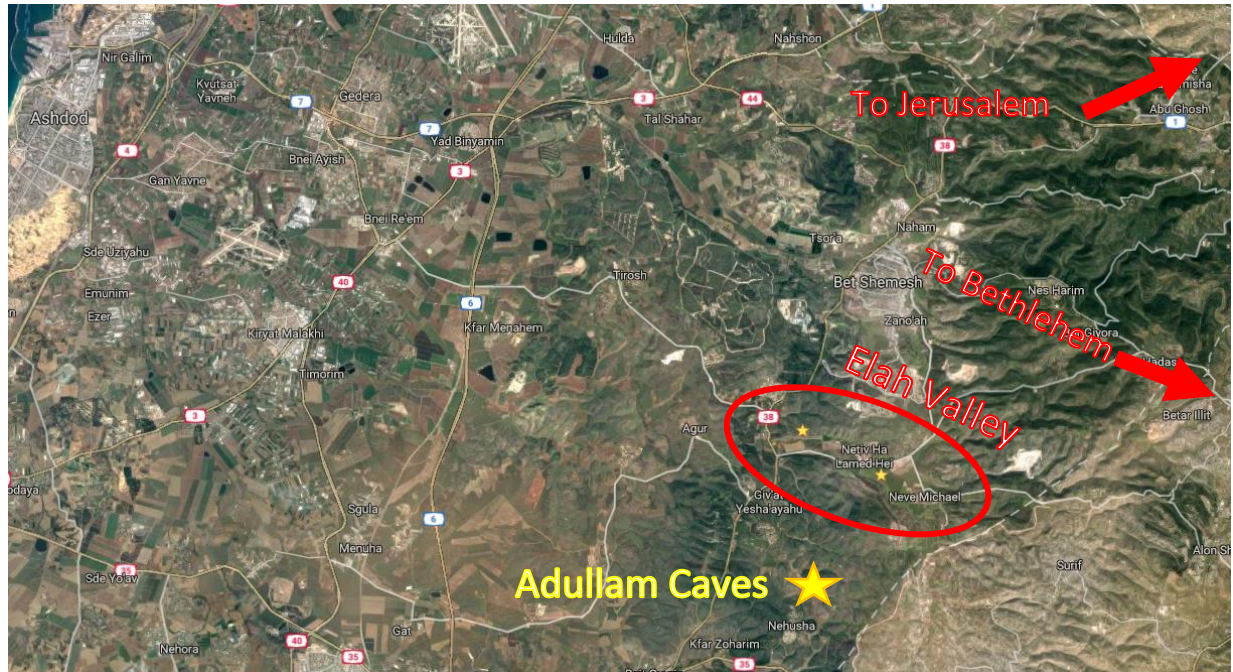




Adullam Fact Sheet

Location: South of Elah Valley in Judean hills, 14 mi west-southwest of Bethlehem and 18 mi southwest of Jerusalem.



Meaning of Name: “place of refuge”; “justice of the people”

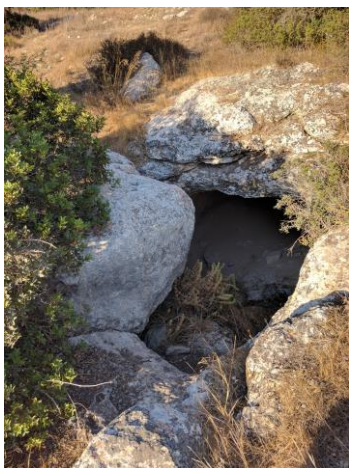
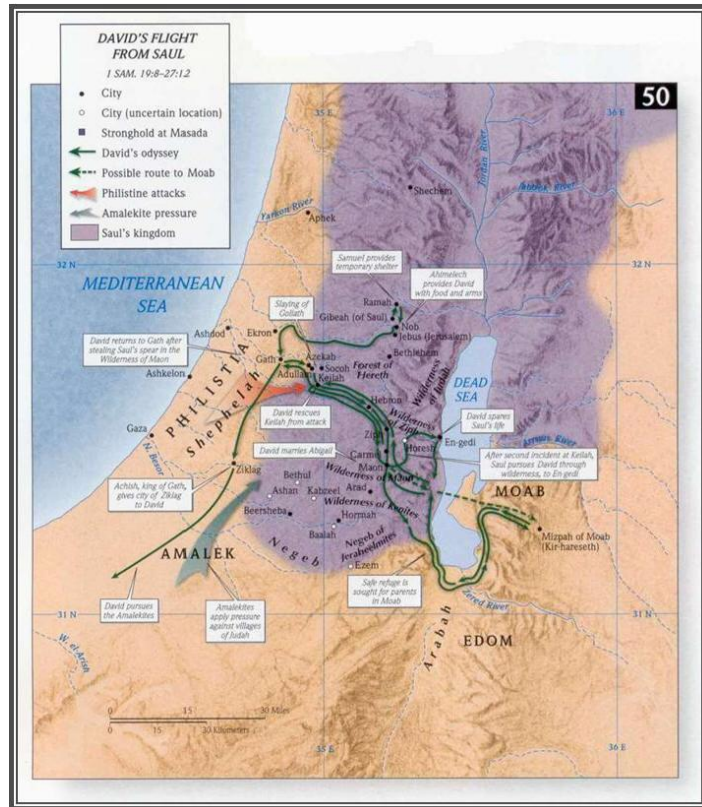
Bible References: 8x

- *Josh 12:15* – King of Adullam conquered by Joshua
- *1 Sam 22:1-2* – David flees to the cave Adullam
- *2 Sam 23:13-17/1 Chr 11:15-19* – Three of David’s mighty men get water from Bethlehem for David while at the cave of Adullam
- *Micah 1:15* – Prophesied against by Micah

Past: After being conquered by Joshua and established in the territory of Judah, Adullam re-enters the biblical record as a hiding place for David and 400 men while he was running from Saul. It is mentioned again in the book of Nehemiah as one of the dwelling places for the tribe of Judah. The last mention is a sarcastic swipe at Judah by Micah as the prophet decries them for their idolatry.



Present: There are two locations that are thought to be possible sites for the cave of Adullam; some sources suggest that the cave is along the western cliffs descending into the Dead Sea, about 6 mi south-southeast of Bethlehem. A rather large cave (thought to be the largest in Israel) has been found there. However, many of the cities associated with David's exile prior to Saul's death are located west of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. While no cave has been found in this area that would be large enough to house 400 men, several caves scattered throughout the hills have been found. Most of the



Cave at Adullam

evidence points to this area being the site of the caves David and his men hid in. Many of the caves are not in the classic form on the side of a rock face, but rather holes with small, well-concealed openings that lead to expansive rooms.

Future: If the prophecy in *Micah 1* is yet future (and there is ample evidence that it is in the description of *Mic 1:4*), Adullam has a small future role. Today, the area surrounding Adullam, though scenic, is sparsely inhabited; Micah by the word of the Lord mocks that during this future period of tribulation, Adullam will be “the glory of Israel”.



Consider This:

- Adullam is sarcastically titled “the glory of Israel” in *Mic 1:15*; despite its association with David, it remains historically a place of hiding due to fear and a place for those in debt, despair or discontent. None of these attributes are befitting of glory!
- Today, the phrase “Adullamite” means “*one of a small group of seceders from a particular political or intellectual position; especially one who withdraws to join with others in forming a new group*”. This is how many a Christian leaves the cave of Adullam (new sect, denomination, church, etc). David regrouped, encouraged his people, and kept fighting on until he ascended his God-ordained position as king of all Israel.