

This indefatigable explorer thinks, however (1881, 258) that the ruin Kh. Samwîl got its name from the hill Neby Samwîl, and not the hill from the ruin. Why so? The name of Samuel was certainly attached to the hill in the fourth century, as in the time of Procopius the convent of St. Samuel stood there. Had the name of Ramah suggested that of Samuel, then the title ought to have been attached to Er Ram. The name of Mizpeh cannot have attached that of Samuel to Neby Samwîl, for the early Christians (as Captain Conder points out) placed it near Deir Abân, probably at Kh. Shûfa.

The only explanation that can be given for this conspicuous hill having at so early a date acquired the name of Samuel, is that "the stone of help" on the southern slope preserved in some form or legend the name of the prophet, and subsequently gave it to the summit of the hill. Thus there seems to be every reason for regarding the ruin called Kh. Samwîl as marking the site of the world-wide Ebenezer.

I may point out that Captain Conder's experience leads him to this conclusion (1881, 271), "the only really permanent and ancient names are those of villages, ruins and springs . . . the ancient names of hills and valleys have, as a rule, been utterly lost."

He further adds (p. 152 *supra*), "the names of hills and valleys, as a rule, are either purely descriptive, or else taken from the village, ruin or spring." Precisely so, therefore I maintain that Neby Samwîl got its name from Kh. Samwîl, and the latter monument was so called from Ebenezer, Samuel's great monument.

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THE HIGH PLACE AT GIBEON.

As Neby Samwîl undoubtedly represents Mizpeh, it is impossible for it to have been what is commonly called "the high-place of Gibeon." Mizpeh and Gibeon were (1) distinct places (Josh. xviii, 25, 26; Neh. iii, 7), and (2) more than a mile apart, separated by a wide valley, and the great high place is always in the Bible said to have been *at* Gibeon, which would have been a curious way of describing a spot situated *not* at Gibeon, but at a distance in another no less well known city.

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