

# ZEBOIM – A SELECTION OF IMAGES

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**Figure 1:** *Zeboim* used to be a town on the eastern border of Canaan | Gen 10:19.





**Figure 2:** Aerial view of the light-coloured site along the Jordan River; *Zeboim* is located 4 miles northeast of Jericho and covers an area of approx. 1.5 sq mi.<sup>1</sup>





**Figure 3:** The Valley of *Zeboim* – the whitish mountains are vestiges of buildings turned to ash | 1 Sam 13:18.





**Figure 4:** Northern outskirts of *Zeboim*.





**Figure 5:** Ruins lining the road.





**Figure 6:** Window openings.





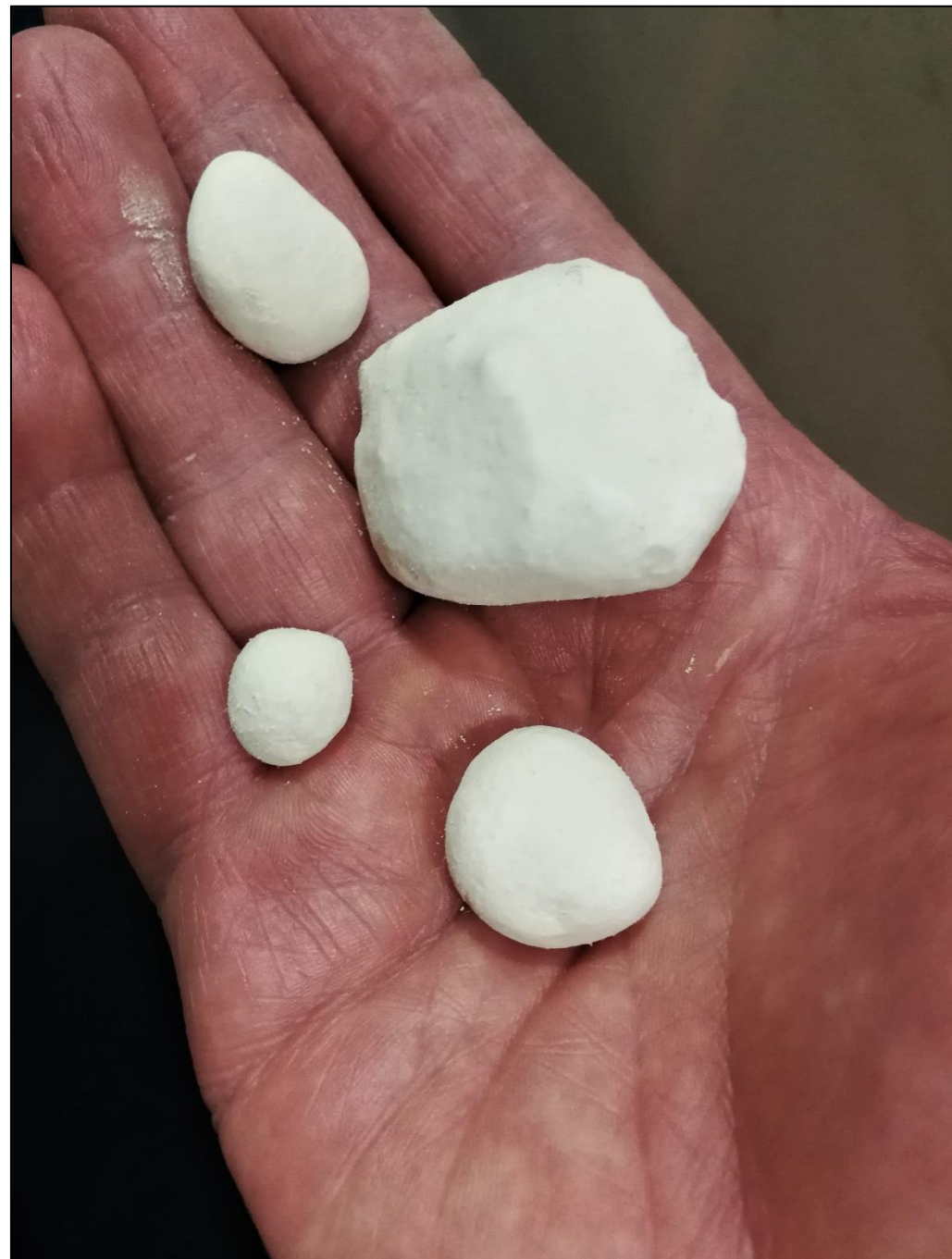
**Figure 7:** City periphery. *Zeboim* was destroyed in 1897 BCE, together with *Sodom*, *Gomorrhah*, and *Admah* | Deut 29:23; Hos 11:8; Jub 16:5; Jash 19:36–45, 51–52.





**Figure 8:** Ashen residue.<sup>2</sup>





**Figure 9:** Sulfur nodules – embedded in vitrified ash and with burn ring.<sup>3</sup>





**Figure 10:** Burning of a sulfur nodule (Photo: Discovered Media)





**Figure 11:** Foundation segment.





**Figure 12:** Remains of a house; cf. the identical shapes in *Admah*.





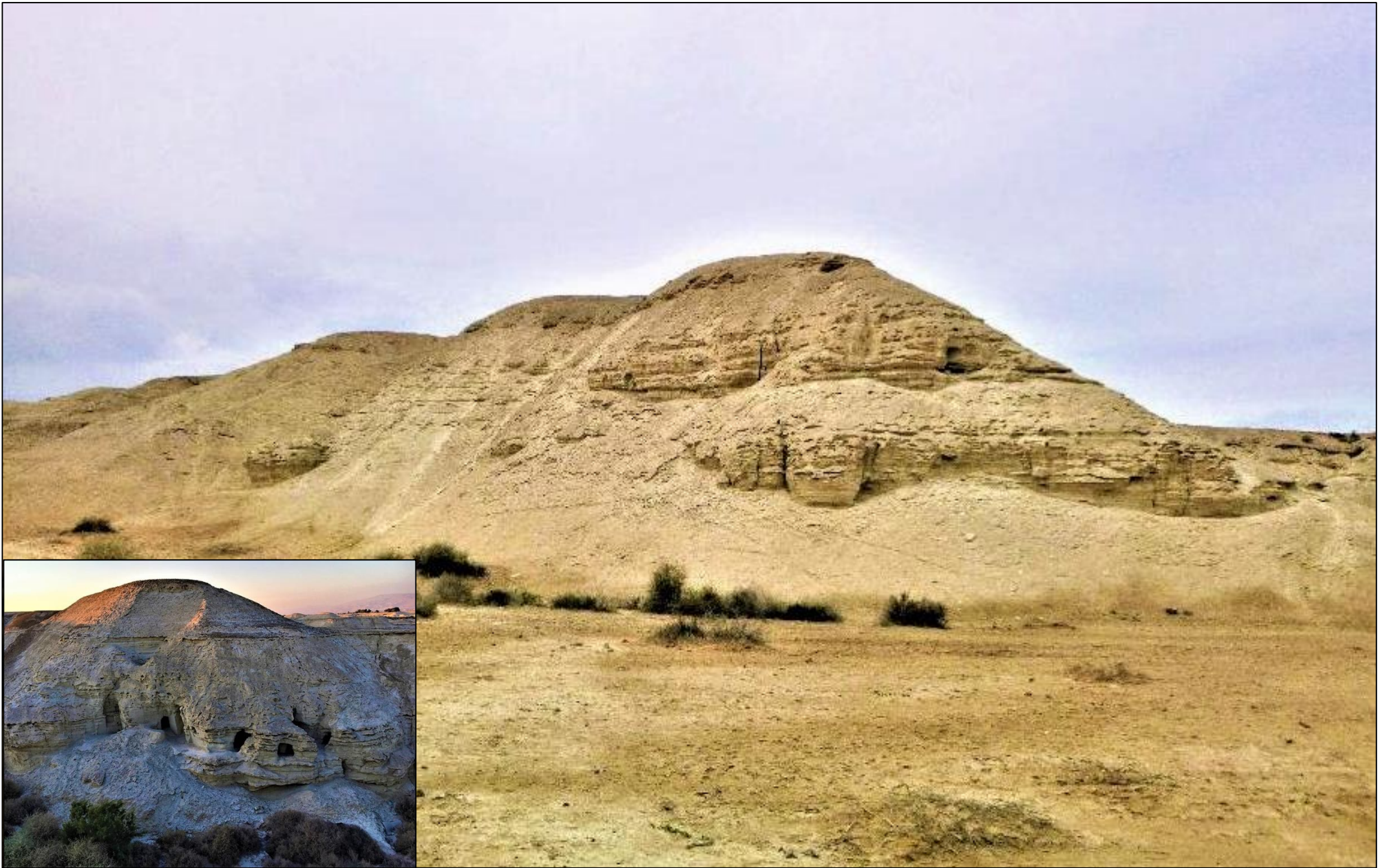
**Figure 13:** Collapsed building – peradventure a ziggurat.





**Figure 14:** Calcium carbonate layers resulting from burning limestone.





**Figure 15:** Eroded buildings; cf. well-preserved buildings in northern *Admah*.





**Figure 16:** Roof section.





**Figure 17:** Fragmented house façade with ash debris.





**Figure 18:** These leftovers show evenly spaced indentations which held the cedar beams for supporting the second floor.





**Figure 19:** Detached edifice.





**Figure 20:** View towards a rooftop.





**Figure 21:** Side street.





**Figure 22:** Various calcareous formations; note the doorway in the right image.





**Figure 23:** Eroded house façades with tower.





**Figure 24:** The same façades as in Fig. 23, viewed from the side.





**Figure 25:** Close-up.





**Figure 26:** Tower overlooking the Valley of *Zeboim*.





**Figure 27:** View towards the neutral zone.



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> The main part of *Zeboim* is located in the neutral zone between Israel and Jordan and therefore inaccessible.
- <sup>2</sup> Despite an outer crust, the ash easily disintegrates into particles the consistency of talcum powder. Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) released during burning reacts with limestone (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) to form compounds containing sulfur and calcium which in turn oxidise into calcium sulfate (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) or gypsum. Consequently, the ash-like substance is largely composed of calcium sulfate as well as calcium carbonate and sulfur. It is exactly the residue one would expect to find if a limestone city had been set ablaze through burning sulfur.
- <sup>3</sup> These photos were taken in Gomorrah which exhibits the same features as Sodom, Admah, and Zeboim. Sulfur nodules were already found in Sodom in 1924: ***“If we are finding mistakes in travellers’ accounts of this place, it is not so with the Biblical account. God rained fire and brimstone upon the Cities of the Plain. Now, brimstone is brimstone, even though used in a miracle. And a region on which brimstone was rained will show brimstone. Well, it does; we picked up pure sulphur, in pieces as big as the end of my thumb.”*** Melvin Grove Kyle, *Explorations at Sodom* (London, 1928), 52. The type of sulfur found in the ashen cities is not of geothermal origin and nowhere else extant (which should not surprise if it came down from above). Once the flaming brimstone had been smothered out by ash, it was encapsulated in crystalline sulfur; the unburned pellet separated from the capsule through erosion. The nodules are 95–98% elemental sulfur with trace amounts of magnesium, causing an extremely high-temperature burn.



## The Book of Jasher

### *Chapter 19*

1 And the cities of Sodom had four judges to four cities, and these were their names, Serak in the city of Sodom, Sharkad in Gomorrah, Zabnac in Admah, and Menon in Zeboim.

2 And Eliezer Abraham's servant applied to them different names, and he converted Serak to Shakra, Sharkad to Shakrura, Zebnac to Kezobim, and Menon to Matzlodin.

3 And by desire of their four judges the people of Sodom and Gomorrah [including Admah and Zeboim] had beds erected in the streets of the cities, and if a man came to these places they laid hold of him and brought him to one of their beds, and by force made him to lie in them.

4 And as he lay down, three men would stand at his head and three at his feet, and measure him by the length of the bed, and if the man was less than the bed these six men would stretch him at each end, and when he cried out to them they would not answer him.

5 And if he was longer than the bed they would draw together the two sides of the bed at each end, until the man had reached the gates of death.

6 And if he continued to cry out to them, they would answer him, saying, Thus shall it be done to a man that cometh into our land.

7 And when men heard all these things that the people of the cities of Sodom did [including Zeboim], they refrained from coming there.

8 And when a poor man came to their land they would give him silver and gold, and cause a proclamation in the whole city not to give him a morsel of bread to eat, and if the stranger should remain there some days, and die from hunger, not having been able to obtain a morsel of bread, then at his death all the people of the city would come and take their silver and gold which they had given to him.

9 And those that could recognize the silver or gold which they had given him took it back, and at his death they also stripped him of his garments, and they would fight about them, and he that prevailed over his neighbor took them.

10 They would after that carry him and bury him under some of the shrubs in the deserts; so they did all the days to any one that came to them and died in their land.