

could possibly be called the Valley of the Jordan, as the nearest point of that river would be forty miles distant at the opposite [south] end of the sea." Nor, as he further points out, can it be said that while Lot "chose" the plain at the northern end of the Dead Sea that he went to "dwell" in that at the southern end, because we are distinctly told that he "beheld all the *kikkar* of Jordan" (ver. 10) . . . "and chose him all the *kikkar* of Jordan" (ver. 11) . . . "and Lot dwelt in the cities of the *kikkar*" (ver. 12).<sup>1</sup> To this may be added the argument of Canon Tristram, who points out that the site of the Cities of the Plain at the northern end of the Dead Sea is the only intelligible view of their position in connection with the raid of Chedorlaomer, who, after he smote the Horites in Mount Seir (Edom), on the south of the Dead Sea, attacked the Amorites in Hazezon Tamar (Engedi), on its eastern shore, next met the King of Sodom and his allies in the Vale of Siddim, and then returned towards Damascus (Gen. xiv. 1-14).<sup>2</sup>

This district of Jordan bearing the name of "the *Kikkar*," *הַכִּקָּר*, "the Circular-plain," is a well-marked region distinguished from the rest of the valley. *כִּקָּר* is literally in its primary sense "anything flat and round," hence the meaning it bears of "a loaf of bread"—that is, the circular, pancake-like, thin toasted cake of unleavened bread, the universal form of the *fellahheen* loaf.<sup>3</sup> Thus, when applied to land it naturally denotes "a tract of country, appearing to the eye as limited within a circle," "a plain roughly circular." The name is most appropriate to this particular part of the Jordan Valley, because, whereas its average breadth from Banias to this point is only about six miles which is out of all proportion to the length of its various reaches, here it broadens out to fourteen miles, while the length of the district, from where the hills draw near together on the north at *Kurn Surtubeh* to the head of the Dead Sea on the south, is about the same. This may be seen by a glance at any

<sup>1</sup> *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*, p. 32. January, 1886.

<sup>2</sup> *The Land of Israel*. Second Edition, p. 366.

<sup>3</sup> Exod. xxix. 23; 1 Sam. ii. 26; Prov. vi. 25; Judges viii. 5; 1 Sam. x. 3.