

PSALTERY

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33.2; 1 Ch. 16, 5, 15 17-47 49 iii. See Music, § 7 f.

PTOLEMAIS (ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΣ: 1 Macc. 5.15 27 55 101 39 59 ff. 60 11.3 22 24 12.45 48 13.12 2 Macc. 13.24 f. Acts 21.7, or ΑΡΧΙΟ, RV Acco (127; in Judg. 131 ΔΑΚΧΩ [BAL.]). For Josh. 19.30 see below, § 5.

There seem to have been two forms of the native name, for each of them appears through several languages.

The Heb. 127 is confirmed by the Assy. Ak-ku-u (see below, § 6), and is reproduced in the Talmud, 127 (Neubauer, *Glog. du Talm.*, 211), and even on crusading coins as

1. Name. *Acco* (De Saaky, *Vann. de la Terre Sainte*, 133).¹ But the earliest extant inscriptions, the Egyptian (below, § 4), give 'A-ka and 'ka' the Phoen. (on coins of Alexander the Great, § 7) was אַכָּא and אַכָּא; the Greek was Ἀκκ (so Diod. Polyb. Menander [in Jos. *Ant.* ix. 14 2 where, however, Niese reads Ἀπερ], Strabo, xvi. 246, and Josephus in *Ant.* viii. 23, etc.; see § 7); the Latin *Acco* or *Ace* (Pliny, *HN* 5.17), and the Arabic down to the present day 'Akka, or 'Akbat. The difference may have been originally only one of inflection.

From the form 'Akka the Crusaders produced Acre, one of the earliest instances of the vulgar addition of *r* to a terminal *a* (cp vulgar English *Indiar*). The fuller modern name St. Jean d'Acre was properly the title of the establishment of the Knights Hospitallers, but was carelessly extended to the whole town. On the origin of the name Ptolemais see below, § 7.

At the N. end of the sandy coast of the Gulf of 'Akka, there rises a short rocky promontory, on which lies the modern city. The site is

2. Site and neighbourhood. favourable for fortification. On two sides and a half (W., S., and ½ E.) is the sea: round the other side and a half (N. and ½ E.) the disposition of the rock has rendered easy the construction from sea to sea of the present lines of wall and ditch. From the S. end of the promontory a few ruins of crusading times (*PEEM* 1160) running E. into the sea represent an ancient mole; the remains of another lie under the sea S. from the S.E. corner of the present city. The anchorage is good. To the N. the coast extends for some distance unbroken; the nearest

¹ Cp Church of St. Nicholas Acons in Lombard Street (Wilson, in Smith's *DB* 122 a).

² W. (A.B.) transliterates Akka.

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coast town is ez-Zib (Ar. ʿUzīb) some 9 m. away. The maritime plain extends nearly 4 m., opposite to the foothills of Galilee and farther S. but a greater breadth towards the entrance to Esdraelon. That the plain holds much water, is proved by the Na'mān, the ancient Belus, which, rising in a (probably the Cendeia of Pliny [38.26]) at the Tell Kurdāneh, becomes in its short course of 6 so a considerable body of water. It reaches the little more than a mile S. from the city. The mouth of the Belus was famed for the manufacture of glass (cp Gl. ASS), and of purple dye (cp PRUPLE the shells of the murex once gathered there in quantities and still to be found. 'I have succeeded in extracting the dye from some of these I have collected here' (Laurence Oliphant, *Haifa* 1887, p. 10). There are rich gardens and groves between the city and the town. Indeed the whole plain and the foot of the hills beyond it are very fertile.

All these various opportunities and endowments of the city are represented on its ancient coinage. On a coin of (De Saaky, 159), Ptolemais is represented as a woman in a turban, seated on a rock, in her right hand some corn, at her feet a river. On other pieces the cornucopia of corn are frequent, and sometimes an olive tree is shown, whilst the command of the sea is symbolised by Neptune, a dolphin or a rudder (*ib.* 153-169 and Pl. viii.; see also *Doctr. Num. Vet.* iii. 305; *Head, Hist. Num.* 676).

Within a radius of 7 m. from 'Akka there are several villages and ancient Tells—more of course on the hills than on the plain. There is not, however, a single village never has been a city large enough to hold 'Akka's port. Nothing dominates the town. The next mound, Tell el-Fokhkhār (96 ft. above sea level) is ½ m. from the present fortifications; but probably an ancient city extended nearly to this Tell. G. (Galilee, 1502-525) found remains up to nearly 10 metres E., and about the same distance N. of the present walls. The next mound, Tell el-Tanfūr (96 ft. high), is about three miles and a half distant.

The strength and isolated character of the position, its standing on the coast and near the mouth of the Jordan, the great plain of Esdraelon, the comparative security of the harbour, the fertility of the neighbourhood form for the town an assurance of fame. It is no exaggeration to say that and around 'Akka, as much history has been transmitted as upon any site in Palestine, with the exception perhaps of two or three. Pietschmann (*Gesch. Phönizier*, 29 f. 79 f.) regards 'Akka's political inferiority to Tyre and Sidon in ancient history as due to the absence from its 'Hinterland' of those enormous mountain ranges which so fully protect them. He is wrong, however, in supposing (p. 80) that 'Akka was more shut off than her sister cities from the great traffic across Syria. All commerce between Egypt and Mesopotamia which followed the Phœnician route must have visited them alike, whilst she lay nearer the rest to the other line which bent inland to Damascus. Indeed 'Akka, not Tyre or Sidon, is the natural port not only for Galilee and the plain of Esdraelon, also for Damascus, Haurān, and Gilead, the roads to which reach it without having to cross either of Lebanon. Not 'a small piece of the world' (Pietschmann says) but all Galilee, Esdraelon, and country E. of Jordan found their clearest outlet through 'Akka. At the present day during harvest some thousands of camels enter it daily with the grain of Haurān; its bazars contain a greater motley of people than those of any other coast towns. Haurān peasants, Druses from Jebel ed-Driz, Damascus merchants, fellāhīn of W. Palestine and Gilead, merchants from Nabulus—and all this in spite of the recent rivalry of Haifa at the opposite end of the Gulf. The commercial activity of 'Akka cannot have been less in ancient times. It is true that in OT and NT the city is mentioned only twice, possibly thrice: as Acco in Judg. 13.1.

¹ According to Schumacher 4000-5000 daily.