

NEGEB (Neh' gehb) Place name meaning, "dry" referring to an arid region in southern Palestine and coming to mean "south." During biblical times it was more populated than today, indicating either more rainfall then or better conservation of the resources. It was the land of the Amalekites during Abraham's day (Gen. 14:7). There he exiled Hagar (21:14). The Israelites wandered in the Negeb after a futile attempt to enter Canaan (Num. 14:44-45). David incorporated it into his kingdom, and Solomon established fortresses in the region. Daniel used the term to refer to Egypt (Dan. 11:15,29). After Judah fell in 586 B.C. Edom took the area into its kingdom. In New Testament times it was known as Nabatea. See Directions; Nabateans; Palestine.

