

~ASHKELON (183)

(Ash'ke-lon) [possibly, Place of Weighing Out, or Paying]

- A seaport on the Mediterranean and one of the five principal Philistine cities.
- From the branch of the Nile that is in front of Egypt and up to the border of Ekron to the north, it used to be reckoned as belonging to the Canaanites, five axis lords of the Philistines, the Gazites and the Ashdodites, the **Ashkelonites**, the Gittites and the Ekronites, and the Avvim. (**Joshua 13:3**)
- It is identified with '**Asqalan**, or **Tel Ashqelon** located about 19 kilometers (12 miles) North-Northeast of Gaza. The city was situated in a naturally formed rocky amphitheater, the concave part facing toward the Mediterranean.
- The countryside is fertile, producing apples, figs, and the small onion known as the scallion, which apparently derives its name from that of the Philistine city.
- **Ashkelon** was assigned to the tribe of Judah and was captured by them, but it apparently did not remain subject to them for long.
- After that Judah captured Gaza and its territory and **Ashkelon** and its territory and Ekron and its territory. (**Judges 1:18**)
- And Yehowah continued with Judah, so that he took possession of the mountainous region, but he could not dispossess the inhabitants of the low plain, because they had war chariots with iron scythes. (**Judges 1:19**)
- It was a Philistine city in the time of Samson and of Samuel.
- And Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, so that he went down to **Ashkelon** and struck down thirty men of theirs and took what he stripped off them and gave the outfits to the tellers of the riddle. And his anger continued hot, and he went his way up to his father's house. (**Judges 14:19**)
- Now these are the golden piles that the Philistines returned as a guilt offering to Yehowah, for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for

Ashkelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one. (1 Samuel 6:17)

- David mentions it in his lament over the death of Saul and Jonathan.
- Do not, you people, tell it in Gath, Do not announce it in the streets of **Ashkelon**, for fear that the daughters of the Philistines may rejoice, for fear that the daughters of the uncircumcised men may exult. (2 Samuel 1:20)
- In King Uzziah's conquest of Philistine cities, **Ashkelon** is not listed as among those taken.
- And he proceeded to go out and fight against the Philistines and break through the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, after which he built cities in Ashdod territory and among the Philistines. (2 Chronicles 26:6)
- In the prophecy of Amos, circa 804 B.C.E, prediction was made of defeat for the ruler of **Ashkelon**.
- And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and the holder of the scepter from **Ashkelon**, and I will turn my hand back upon Ekron, and the remaining one's of the Philistines must perish, the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said. (Amos 1:8)
- Secular history shows that in the succeeding century Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria made *Asqaluna*, or **Ashkelon**, a vassal city. Jeremiah after 647 B.C.E, uttered two prophecies involving **Ashkelon**. While
- This is what Yehowah has said; Look! Waters are coming up from the north and have become a flooding torrent. And they will flood the land and what fills it, the city and those inhabiting it. And the men will certainly cry out, and everyone dwelling in the land must howl. (Jeremiah 47:2)
- At the sound of the stamping of the hoofs of his stallions, at the rattling of his war chariots, the turmoil of his wheels, the fathers will actually not turn around to the sons, because of the dropping down of their hands. (Jeremiah 47:3)
- On account of the day that is coming to despoil all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and from Sidon every survivor that was

helping. For Yehowah is despoiling the Philistines, who are the remaining one's from the island of Caphtor. (**Jeremiah 47:4**)

- Baldness must come to Gaza. **Ashkelon** has been put to silence. O remnant of their low plain, how long will you keep making cuts upon yourself? (**Jeremiah 47:5**)
- Aha, the sword of Yehowah! How long will you not stay quiet? Be shoved into your sheath. Take your repose and keep silent. (**Jeremiah 47:6**)
- How can it stay quiet, when Yehowah himself has given a command to it? It is for **Ashkelon** and for the coast of the sea. There is where he has designated it to be. (**Jeremiah 47:7**)
- Could have seen some fulfillment when Nebuchadnezzar sacked the city early in his reign **circa 624 B.C.E**, the prophecy at;
- And I proceeded to take the cup out of the hand of Yehowah and to make all the nations drink to whom Yehowah had sent me: (**Jeremiah 25:17**)
- Namely, Jerusalem and the cities of Judah and her kings, her princes, to make them a devastated place, an object of astonishment, something to whistle at and a malediction, just as at this day. (**Jeremiah 25:18**)
- Pharaoh the king of Egypt and his servants and his princes and all his people. (**Jeremiah 25:19**)
- And all the mixed company, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines and **Ashkelon** and Gaza and Ekron and the remnant of Ashdod. (**Jeremiah 25:20**)
- And it must occur that in case they refuse to take the cup out of your hand to drink, you must also say to them; This is what Yehowah of armies has said; You will drink without fail. (**Jeremiah 25:28**)
- For, look! It is upon the city upon which my name is called that I am starting off in bringing calamity, and should you yourselves in any way go free of punishment? You will not go free of punishment, for there is a sword that I am calling against all the inhabitants of the earth, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies.

(Jeremiah 25:29)

- Clearly indicates a fulfillment subsequent to the fall of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E.** Zephaniah's prophecy **written before 648 B.C.E.** also foretold a coming desolation for **Ashkelon**, along with other Philistine cities, after which the remnant of Judah would eventually occupy the houses of **Ashkelon**.
- For, as regards Gaza, an abandoned city is what she will become, and **Ashkelon** is to be a desolate waste. As regards Ashdod, at high noon they will drive her out, and as regards Ekron, she will be uprooted. (**Zephaniah 2:4**)
- Woe to those inhabiting the region of the sea, the nation of Cherethites! The word of Yehowah is against you people. O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will also destroy you, so that there will be no inhabitant. (**Zephaniah 2:5**)
- And the region of the sea must become pasture grounds, with wells for shepherds and stone pens for sheep. (**Zephaniah 2:6**)
- And it must become a region for the remaining one's of the house of Judah. Upon them they will feed. In the houses of **Ashkelon**, in the evening, they will lie stretched out. For Yehowah their God will turn his attention to them and certainly gather back the captive one's of them. (**Zephaniah 2:7**)
- Finally, about **518 B.C.E.**, Zechariah proclaimed doom for **Ashkelon** in connection with the time of Tyre's desolation **332 B.C.E.**
- And Tyre proceeded to build a rampart for herself, and to pile up silver like dust and gold like the mire of the streets. (**Zechariah 9:3**)
- Look! Yehowah himself will dispossess her, and into the sea he will certainly strike down her military force, and in the fire she herself will be devoured. (**Zechariah 9:4**)
- **Ashkelon** will see and get afraid, and as for Gaza, she will also feel very severe pains. Ekron also, because her looked-for hope will have to experience shame. And a king will certainly perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon herself will not be inhabited. (**Zechariah 9:5**)

