

**~GEZER (144)**  
**(Ge'zer) [Piece, Part]**

- A royal city on the inland side of the Palestinian coastal plain. **Gezer** is first mentioned when its king unsuccessfully tried to save Lachish from the Israelite army under Joshua.
- It was then that Hiram the king of **Gezer** went up to help Lachish. So Joshua struck him and his people until he had let not a survivor of his remain. (**Joshua 10:33**)
- And these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the sons of Israel defeated on the side of the Jordan toward the west, from Baal-gad in the valley plain of Lebanon and as far as Mount Halak, which goes up to Seir, after which Joshua gave it to the tribes of Israel as a holding by their shares. (**Joshua 12:7**)
- In the mountainous region and in the Shephelah and in the Arabah and on the slopes and in the wilderness and in the Negeb, the Hittites, the Amorites and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Joshua 12:8**)
- The king of Eglon, one. The king of **Gezer**, one. (**Joshua 12:12**)
- **Gezer** was assigned as a boundary site to the Ephraimites.
- And it went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites as far as the boundary of Lower Beth-horon and **Gezer**, and its termination proved to be at the sea. (**Joshua 16:3**)
- And their possession and their dwelling places were Bethel and its dependent towns and, to the east, Naaran and, to the west, **Gezer** and its dependent towns, and Shechem and its dependent towns clear to Gaza and its dependent towns. (**1 Chronicles 7:28**)
- But they did not entirely dispossess the Canaanite inhabitants.
- And they did not drive away the Canaanites who were dwelling in **Gezer**, and the Canaanites continue dwelling in among Ephraim down to this day and came to be subject to slavish forced labor. (**Joshua 16:10**)

- Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who were dwelling in **Gezer**, but the Canaanites continued to dwell in among them in **Gezer**. (**Judges 1:29**)
- **Gezer** was also appointed to the Kohathites as a Levite city.
- And for the families of the sons of Kohath, the Levites who were left over of the sons of Kohath, there came to be by their lot cities out of the tribe of Ephraim. (**Joshua 21:20**)
- Accordingly they gave them the city of refuge for the manslayer, namely, Shechem, and its pasture ground in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and **Gezer** and its pasture ground. (**Joshua 21:21**)
- And some of the families of the sons of Kohath came to have the cities of their territory from the tribe of Ephraim. (**1 Chronicles 6:66**)
- Accordingly they gave them the cities of refuge, Shechem with its pasture grounds in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and **Gezer** with its pasture grounds. (**1 Chronicles 6:67**)
- The city was associated with the Philistines in David's time, as when he broke their power from Geba to as far as **Gezer**.
- Accordingly David did that way, just as Yehowah had commanded him, and he went striking down the Philistines from Geba to as far as **Gezer**. (**2 Samuel 5:25**)
- So David did just as the true God had commanded him, and they went striking down the camp of the Philistines from Gibeon to **Gezer**. (**1 Chronicles 14:16**)
- Also, Sibbecai the Hushathite distinguished himself during the defeat of the Philistines at **Gezer** by striking down Sippai, a descendant of the Rephaim.
- And it came about after this that war began breaking out at **Gezer** with the Philistines. It was then that Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Sippai of those born of the Rephaim, so that they were subdued. (**1 Chronicles 20:4**)

- Egypt's Pharaoh later came against **Gezer** for some unstated reason. After burning the city and killing its Canaanite population, he gave it as a dowry to Solomon's wife. Solomon rebuilt and possibly fortified the city.
- Now this is the account of those conscripted for forced labor that King Solomon levied to build the house of Yehowah and his own house and the Mound and the wall of Jerusalem and Hazor and Megiddo and **Gezer**. (**1 Kings 9:15**)
- Pharaoh the king of Egypt himself had come up and then captured **Gezer** and burned it with fire, and the Canaanites dwelling in the city he had killed. So he gave it as a parting gift to his daughter, the wife of Solomon. (**1 Kings 9:16**)
- And Solomon went on to build **Gezer** and Lower Beth-horon. (**1 Kings 9:17**)
- **Gezer** also finds frequent mention in secular records. On the walls of the temple at Karnak, Thutmose III recorded the capture of **Gezer**. The city later played a prominent role in the Amarna Tablets, being mentioned by name at least nine times. Pharaoh Merneptah boasted on his stele that he seized **Gezer**.
- Scholars consider ancient **Gezer** to be modern **Tell Jezer**, **Abu Shushah**, **Tel Gezer**, located about midway on the route between Jerusalem and **Tel Aviv-Yafo**, **Joppa**.
- It thus lay near another great highway that has for millenniums connected Egypt with Mesopotamia for trade and military purposes. Tell Jezer's elevated position on a ridge of the Shephelah allowed it to command use of both of these roads.
- Archaeological digging first began at this tell early in the 20th century. Since then it has become one of the most thoroughly excavated and explored sites in Palestine.
- Among the finds there are the Solomonic gate and casemate wall, built upon a layer of destruction debris that some conjecture to be the result of Pharaoh's burning of **Gezer**.
- Its architecture is considered to be so similar to that found in structures at Hazor and Megiddo as to indicate that all three were built from the same plans.

- Earlier strata show Philistine pottery in abundance. Perhaps the most famous find to come out of **Tell Jezer**, however, is the **Gezer** calendar, a plaque containing what appear to be a schoolboys memory exercises.

- It has proved to be of value by informing modern researchers of ancient Israel's agricultural seasons and providing a glimpse into the Hebrew script and language of Solomon's day.