~IJON (42) (I'jon)

- One of the places taken by the military forces of Syria's King Benhadad I during the reign of Baasha.
- Accordingly Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel and went striking down Ijon and Dan and Abel-beth-maacah and all Chinnereth, as far as all the land of Naphtali. (1 Kings 15:20)
- And it came about that as soon as Baasha heard of it, he immediately quit building Ramah and continued dwelling in Tirzah. (1 Kings 15:21)
- So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel, so that they struck Ijon and Dan and Abel-maim and all the storage places of the cities of Naphtali. (2 Chronicles 16:4)
- Nearly two centuries later, Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III conquered **Ijon** and exiled its population.
- In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (2 Kings 15:29)
- Geographers generally link Ijon with Tell ed-Dibbin about 15 kilometers (9 miles) North-Northwest of Dan. But some question this identification because surface exploration of the mound has not revealed any evidence of occupation in the period referred to in Scripture.
- However, those favoring the commonly proposed identification attribute the absence of such evidence at the base of Tell ed-Dibbin to the well-preserved ancient walls that have prevented spillage from the mound.