

## ~MEGIDDO (273)

(Me-gid'do)

.. Strategic

.. History

.. Zechariah's Prophecy

- One of the more important cities of the Promised Land, located about 90 kilometers (56 miles) North of Jerusalem and 31 kilometers (19 miles) Southeast of the modern city of Haifa.

- It was built on a plot of somewhat over 4 ha (10 acres), atop a mound known today as **Tell el-Mutesellim**, **Tel Megiddo**, which rises nearly 21 meters (70 feet) above the valley below.

.. Strategic

- Situated in this strategic spot overlooking and dominating the fertile western section of the Jezreel Valley, Plain of Esdraelon, also known as, the valley plain of **Megiddo**.

- And Josiah did not turn his face away from him, but to fight against him he disguised himself and did not listen to the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the valley plain of **Megiddo**. (**2 Chronicles 35:22**)

- In that day the wailing in Jerusalem will be great, like the wailing of Hadadrimmon in the valley plain of **Megiddo**. (**Zechariah 12:11**)

- It easily controlled the major trade and military routes that intersected there. Both Biblical history and secular records tell how the armies of many nations fought decisive battles around **Megiddo** because of its commanding position.

- Near this site, by the waters of **Megiddo**, Judge Barak defeated Jabin's mighty forces under Sisera, which included 900 chariots outfitted with iron scythes.

- And I shall certainly draw to you at the torrent valley of Kishon Sisera the chief of Jabin's army and his war chariots and his crowd, and I shall indeed give him into your hand. (**Judges 4:7**)

- At once Sisera called together all his war chariots, the nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and all the people that were with him, out of Harosheth of the nations to the torrent valley of Kishon. (**Judges 4:13**)
- Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (**Judges 4:14**)
- And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before Barak. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight on foot. (**Judges 4:15**)
- And Barak chased after the war chariots and the camp as far as Harosheth of the nations, so that all the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained. (**Judges 4:16**)
- Kings came, they fought. It was then that the kings of Canaan fought in Taanach by the waters of **Megiddo**. No gain of silver did they take. (**Judges 5:19**)
- It was at **Megiddo** that King Ahaziah of Judah died after being mortally wounded near Ibleam on orders of Jehu.
- And Ahaziah the king of Judah himself saw it and took to flight by the way of the garden house. Later Jehu went in pursuit of him and said; Him also! Strike him down! So they struck him down while in the chariot on the way up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he continued his flight to **Megiddo** and got to die there. (**2 Kings 9:27**)
- At **Megiddo** King Josiah of Judah was mortally wounded when he intercepted the Egyptian army under Pharaoh Nechoh that was on its way to help the Assyrians at the river Euphrates.
- In his days Pharaoh Nechoh the king of Egypt came up to the king of Assyria by the river Euphrates, and King Josiah proceeded to go to meet him, but he put him to death at **Megiddo** as soon as he saw him. (**2 Kings 23:29**)
- So his servants conveyed him dead in a chariot from **Megiddo** and

brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his grave. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father. (2 Kings 23:30)

- And Josiah did not turn his face away from him, but to fight against him he disguised himself and did not listen to the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the valley plain of **Megiddo**. (2 Chronicles 35:22)
- At various times during its long history, as archaeological diggings show, **Megiddo** was heavily fortified. Ruins have been uncovered showing that it once had walls between 4 and 5 meters (13 and 16 feet) thick, which were later increased to more than 7.5 meters (25 feet) thick, sections of which were still over 3.3 meters (11 feet) high when found.

## • History

- The first mention of **Megiddo** lists its king among the 31 that Joshua defeated in the initial conquest of the Promised Land.
- 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 Taanach, one. The king of **Megiddo**, one. (Joshua 12:21)
- The king of Tirzah, one, all the kings being thirty-one. (Joshua 12:24)
- When the land was apportioned, **Megiddo**, together with its dependent towns, became an enclave city belonging to the tribe of **Manasseh**, though it was situated in the territory of Issachar.
- And there came to belong to Manasseh in Issachar and in Asher Beth-shean and its dependent towns and Ibleam and its

dependent towns and the inhabitants of Dor and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of En-dor and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of Taanach and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of **Megiddo** and its dependent towns, three of the heights. (**Joshua 17:11**)

- And by the side of the sons of Manasseh Beth-shean and its dependent towns, Taanach and its dependent towns, **Megiddo** and its dependent towns, Dor and its dependent towns. In these the sons of Joseph the son of Israel dwelt. (**1 Chronicles 7:29**)
- However, during the period of the Judges, Manasseh was not able to drive the Canaanites out of this stronghold. At best, when Israel became strong, the inhabitants of this city were regimented for forced labor.
- And Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its dependent towns and Taanach and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of Dor and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of Ibleam and its dependent towns and the inhabitants of **Megiddo** and its dependent towns, but the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in this land. (**Judges 1:27**)
- And it came about that Israel grew strong and proceeded to set the Canaanites to forced labor, and they did not drive them out completely. (**Judges 1:28**)
- Under David's reign, when the boundaries of the kingdom were extended to their full limits, all Canaanite elements within the Promised Land were subjugated, including **Megiddo**.
- This allowed Solomon to include **Megiddo** in the fifth-named district set up to supply the royal household with food one month out of the year.
- And Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (**1 Kings 4:7**)
- And these were their names. The son of Hur, in the mountainous region of Ephraim. (**1 Kings 4:8**)
- Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and **Megiddo** and all Beth-

shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (1 Kings 4:12)

- Solomon also fortified **Megiddo**, and it may have become one of his chariot cities where some of his 12,000 steeds were stabled.
- 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)
- And Baalath and Tamar in the wilderness, in the land. (1 Kings 9:18)
- And all the storage cities that became Solomon's and the chariot cities and the cities for the horsemen, and the desirable things of Solomon that he had desired to build in Jerusalem and in Lebanon and in all the land of his dominion. (1 Kings 9:19)
- And Solomon kept gathering more chariots and steeds, and he came to have a thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand steeds, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem. (1 Kings 10:26)
- At **Megiddo** archaeologists have found very extensive remains of what some scholars, but not all, think were stables capable of accommodating upwards of 450 horses.
- At first these structures were credited to Solomon's time, but many later archaeologists redated them to a later period, perhaps the time of Ahab.

#### •• Zechariah's Prophecy

- In that day the wailing in Jerusalem will be great, like the wailing of Hadadrimmon in the valley plain of **Megiddo**.

**(Zechariah 12:11)**

- Speaks of a great wailing that occurred in the valley plain of **Megiddo**, which may be a reference to the lamentation over King Josiah, who was killed there in battle.
- In his days Pharaoh Nechoh the king of Egypt came up to the king of Assyria by the river Euphrates, and King Josiah proceeded to go to meet him, but he put him to death at **Megiddo** as soon as he saw him. (**2 Kings 23:29**)
- So his servants conveyed him dead in a chariot from **Megiddo** and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his grave. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father. (**2 Kings 23:30**)
- There is a slight difference in the Hebrew spelling of **Megiddo** here in the book of Zechariah. Instead of the conventional Hebrew spelling *Meghid-doh'*, it is *Meghid-dohn'*, a prolonged form similar to that found at;
- And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew **Har–Magedon**. (**Revelation 16:16**)

**See Also HAR–MAGEDON**

- Strategically located and dominating major trade and military routes, Megiddo was a focus of international interest in Bible times. The valley plain at its feet became the site of many decisive battles.
- Therefore, the book of Revelation fittingly names the coming war of the great day of God the Almighty at Har–Magedon, from Hebrew, meaning, **Mountain of Megiddo**. However, it is not at literal Megiddo that this war will be fought. It will involve the kings of the entire inhabited earth.
- They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the **kings of the entire inhabited earth**, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty. (**Revelation 16:14**)
- And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew **Har–Magedon**. (**Revelation 16:16**)

- **This time no human ruler will be victor. It will be the Kingdom of God that will prove triumphant over all of them, vindicating Yehowah God, the Almighty, as Universal Sovereign.**