

~MEROM, WATERS OF (71)
(Mer'om) [High or Exalted Place]

- **It was here that the confederate Canaanite forces under Jabin the king of Hazor encamped before being defeated by Joshua. Probably for the first time the Israelites faced Canaanites equipped with horses and chariots, as may be inferred from Joshua's receiving divine instructions then about burning the chariots and hamstringing the horses.**
- **And it came about that as soon as Jabin the king of Hazor heard of it, he went sending to Jobab the king of Madon and to the king of Shimron and the king of Achshaph. (Joshua 11:1)**
- **And to the kings that were to the north in the mountainous region and in the desert plains south of Chinnereth and in the Shephelah and on the mountain ridges of Dor to the west. (Joshua 11:2)**
- **The Canaanites to the east and the west, and the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Jebusites in the mountainous region and the Hivites at the base of Hermon in the land of Mizpah. (Joshua 11:3)**
- **So they went out, they and all their camps with them, a people as numerous as the grains of sand that are on the seashore for multitude, and very many horses and war chariots. (Joshua 11:4)**
- **Then all these kings met together by appointment and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. (Joshua 11:5)**
- **At this Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I am abandoning all of them slain to Israel. Their horses you will hamstring, and their chariots you will burn in the fire. (Joshua 11:6)**
- **And Joshua and all the people of war with him proceeded to come against them along the waters of Merom by surprise and to fall upon them. (Joshua 11:7)**
- **Then Yehowah gave them into Israel's hand, and they went**

striking them and pursuing them as far as populous Sidon and Misrephoth-maim and the valley plain of Mizpeh to the east, and they kept striking them until they had not let a survivor of theirs remain. (**Joshua 11:8**)

- After that Joshua did to them just as Yehowah had said to him, their horses he hamstrung, and their chariots he burned in the fire. (**Joshua 11:9**)
- As explained by **Y. Aharoni**: The waters of **Merom** must be the water source of the city **Merom** beside which the Canaanite forces assembled. **Merom** is known both from Second-Millennium Egyptian sources and from Tiglath-pileser III's account of his expedition to Galilee.
- It is generally accepted to identify **Merom** with **Meirun** at the foot of Jebel Jarmaq, but in the absence of a suitable tell at this site, an identification a bit farther north is preferable.
- Its name is possibly preserved in **Jebel Marun** and **Marun er-Ras**, and we may consider its identification with Tell el-Khirbeh, one of the large Canaanite tells in the southern part of Canaanite Upper Galilee. From Hazor both of the suggested identifications are about seven to eight miles as the crow flies. [**The Land of the Bible**, translated and edited by A. Rainey, 1979, pp. 225,226]