

# Joshua 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

## Analysis

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**The king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one**—Libnah (Livnah, לִבְנָה, 'whiteness/pavement') was a Levitical city (Joshua 21:13) that later rebelled against Judah's king Jehoram due to his idolatry (2 Kings 8:22). Even conquered and consecrated cities could fall away—illustrating that covenant relationship requires ongoing faithfulness, not merely past victory. The name 'whiteness' may refer to white limestone or ritual purity, ironic given its later apostasy.

Adullam (Adullam, אֲדֻלָּם, 'justice of the people' or 'refuge') later became famous as David's cave refuge (1 Samuel 22:1; Psalm 142 superscription) where outcasts joined him to form his mighty men. A city Joshua conquered became the hiding place for Israel's greatest king during his exile—demonstrating God's sovereignty in weaving conquest and refuge, judgment and mercy, into redemptive purposes.

## Historical Context

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Libnah (Tel Burna or Tel es-Safi) was strategically located in the Shephelah. Its later rebellion against Jehoram (2 Kings 8:22) shows continued political significance. Adullam (Khirbet esh-Sheikh Madhkur) controlled the entrance to the Elah Valley. David's use of Adullam's cave illustrates how conquered territories became integrated into Israelite history, sites of judgment transformed into places of refuge.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Libnah's later rebellion (2 Kings 8:22) despite being conquered and consecrated illustrate that past spiritual victories don't guarantee future faithfulness?
2. What does Adullam's transformation from enemy fortress to David's refuge teach about God's redemptive purposes encompassing even sites of previous judgment?
3. How should the irony of Libnah ('whiteness/purity') falling into idolatry warn against assuming external religious identity ensures internal spiritual health?

## Interlinear Text

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מֶלֶךְ	לִבְנָה	אֶחָד:	מֶלֶךְ	עֲדֻלָּם	אֶחָד:
<b>The king</b>	<b>of Libnah</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>The king</b>	<b>of Adullam</b>	<b>one</b>
H4428	H3841	H259	H4428	H5725	H259