

Joshua 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one;

Analysis

The king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one—Madon (מִדּוֹן, madon, 'contention' or 'strife') was one of four northern kings who formed a coalition against Israel (11:1), but the name itself suggests their enterprise was characterized by discord. Hazor (חֲצוֹר, chatzor, 'enclosed' or 'fortified') was the premier city-state of Canaan, described as 'the head of all those kingdoms' (11:10), ruling an empire stretching across northern Canaan.

Hazor's king Jabin led the northern confederation, fielding a massive coalition with 'horses and chariots very many' (11:4), representing the most formidable military threat Israel faced. Joshua's defeat of Hazor—burning it completely while sparing other cities (11:13)—demonstrated that even the greatest Canaanite power could not withstand God's promise. Archaeological evidence confirms Hazor was the largest Canaanite city (200 acres), making its destruction a pivotal military and psychological victory.

Historical Context

Madon is tentatively identified with Qarn Hattin near Tiberias. Hazor (Tel el-Qedah) was the largest city in Canaan during the Late Bronze Age, covering over 200 acres with a population estimated at 20,000-40,000. Excavations by Yigael Yadin revealed massive destruction layers around 1230 BC, with evidence of intense conflagration matching Joshua 11:11—'they burnt Hazor with fire.' Cuneiform tablets found at Hazor confirm its role as a major political and commercial center.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the defeat of Hazor—the greatest Canaanite city—encourage faith when facing overwhelming opposition?
2. What does burning Hazor while sparing other cities teach about strategic obedience rather than formulaic repetition?
3. How do you respond when God calls you to confront the 'head' stronghold rather than peripheral issues?

Interlinear Text

מֶלֶךְ	מָדוֹן	אֶחָד:	מֶלֶךְ	חָצַר	אֶחָד:
The king	of Madon	one	The king	of Hazor	one
H4428	H4068	H259	H4428	H2674	H259

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 11:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor had heard those things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,