

# Joshua 12:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one;

## Analysis

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**The king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one**—Taanach (תַּאנַח, ta'anach) and Megiddo (מִגִּדּוֹ, megiddo, 'place of troops') were twin fortresses guarding the strategic Jezreel Valley and controlling access through the Carmel mountain range via the Megiddo pass. Possessing these cities meant controlling the primary east-west trade route connecting the coastal Via Maris with the inland King's Highway.

Megiddo's subsequent biblical prominence—as the site where Deborah defeated Canaanite kings (Judges 5:19), where Josiah died fighting Pharaoh Necho (2 Kings 23:29-30), and as the symbolic location for final battle (Revelation 16:16, 'Armageddon' = Har Megiddo, 'Mount Megiddo')—makes this notation prophetically significant. Joshua's conquest of Megiddo's king foreshadowed the location where divine judgment would repeatedly fall on God's enemies throughout redemptive history.

## Historical Context

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Taanach (Tell Ta'annek) and Megiddo (Tell el-Mutesellim) are both extensively excavated sites showing major Late Bronze Age destruction layers consistent with 13th-12th century BC conquest. Megiddo, one of the most excavated sites in Israel, reveals 26 occupation layers spanning from 4000 BC to 400 BC. Its strategic position guarding the Megiddo pass made it perhaps the most fought-over location in ancient history. Egyptian, Assyrian, and biblical records all reference Megiddo's military importance.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Megiddo's role throughout Scripture (from Joshua to Revelation) demonstrate God's sovereignty over strategic locations?
2. What does controlling key 'passes' like Megiddo teach about the importance of strategic thinking in spiritual warfare?
3. How do past victories at significant locations (like Megiddo) encourage faith for future confrontations?

## Interlinear Text

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מֶלֶךְ	תַּעֲנַךְ	אֶחָד:	מֶלֶךְ	מֶגִּדּוֹ	אֶחָד:
<b>The king</b>	<b>of Taanach</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>The king</b>	<b>of Megiddo</b>	<b>one</b>
H4428	H8590	H259	H4428	H4023	H259

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 17:11** (Parallel theme): And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries.