

Joshua 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam of Carmel, one;

Analysis

The king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam of Carmel, one—Kedesh (קִדְשׁ, qedesh, 'holy place' or 'sanctuary') later became one of six Levitical cities of refuge (20:7, 21:32), transforming from a defeated Canaanite stronghold into a sanctuary where manslayers could find asylum. This redemptive repurposing illustrates how God reclaims enemy territory for mercy's sake—the very sites once dedicated to Baal worship became havens of grace under Torah law.

Jokneam (יֹקְנֵאִם, yoqne'am, 'possessed by the people') sits at the base of Mount Carmel, the site where Elijah would later confront Baal's prophets (1 Kings 18). The king's defeat here prepared the geographic stage for that defining confrontation between Yahweh and Canaanite deities. Joshua's military conquest became theological prerequisite for Elijah's spiritual showdown—the land must first be possessed militarily before idolatry could be confronted prophetically.

Historical Context

Kedesh (Tell Qades) in upper Galilee was a fortified Canaanite city controlling routes through the hill country. Its transformation into a city of refuge demonstrates how conquest enabled reorganization of the land for justice and mercy. Jokneam (Tell Qeimun) guards the southwestern entrance to the Jezreel Valley at Carmel's base. Its strategic position controlling access from the coast to the interior made it a crucial conquest for maintaining territorial integrity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Kedesh's transformation from conquered enemy to city of refuge illustrate redemptive repurposing of reclaimed territory?
2. What does Jokneam's proximity to Carmel teach about preparing ground for later spiritual battles through present obedience?
3. In what ways do your current struggles prepare strategic positions for future ministry and impact?

Interlinear Text

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| מֶלֶךְ | קֵדְשׁ | אֶדְדָּהּ | מֶלֶךְ | יֹקְנֵאֵם | לְכַרְמֵל | אֶדְדָּהּ |
| The king | of Kedesh | one | The king | of Jokneam | of Carmel | one |
| H4428 | H6943 | H259 | H4428 | H3362 | H3760 | H259 |

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 21:32 (Parallel theme): And out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Hammoth-dor with her suburbs, and Kartan with her suburbs; three cities.

Joshua 19:37 (Parallel theme): And Kedesh, and Edrei, and En-hazor,