

# Joshua 12:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king of Dor in the coast of Dor, one; the king of the nations of Gilgal, one;

## Analysis

**The king of Dor in the coast of Dor, one; the king of the nations of Gilgal, one**—Dor (דֹּר, dor, 'dwelling') was a coastal city whose king joined the northern coalition despite being geographically distant from the battle site, illustrating the widespread fear Israel inspired (2:9-11). The phrase 'in the coast of Dor' (בְּנֶפֶת דֹּר, benaphath-dor, literally 'in the height/region of Dor') suggests both the city and its territorial dependencies fell under this defeat.

The enigmatic **king of the nations of Gilgal** (מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם לְגִלְגָּל, melech goyim legilgal) presents a textual puzzle—this is not the Gilgal near Jericho where Israel camped (4:19), but apparently a northern location called Galilee (Gelilah) of the Gentiles (גְּלִיל הַגּוֹיִם, gelil hagoyim, Isaiah 9:1). The designation 'nations' suggests a cosmopolitan city ruling diverse ethnic populations, whose defeat symbolized God's judgment on Gentile pluralism apart from covenant faithfulness. Matthew 4:15 cites Isaiah's prophecy about this region, connecting Joshua's conquest to Messiah's later ministry in the very territory once ruled by 'the king of the nations.'

## Historical Context

Dor (Khirbet el-Burj) was a major Mediterranean port controlling maritime trade routes. Egyptian sources mention it as a prosperous coastal city. The 'king of nations of Gilgal' likely refers to Galilee (גְּלִיל, galil), the northern region later called 'Galilee of the Gentiles' due to its mixed population. This area's conquest by

Joshua prepared it as the geographical center of Jesus's earthly ministry, demonstrating God's long-range redemptive purposes in territorial conquest.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the defeat of 'the nations' in Galilee foreshadow Jesus ministering in 'Galilee of the Gentiles' to bring light to darkness?
2. What does Dor's coastal location teach about confronting enemy strongholds at cultural boundary zones?
3. How do God's purposes in conquest extend far beyond immediate military objectives to redemptive historical aims?

## Interlinear Text

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מֶלֶךְ	דֹּר	לְנֶפֶת	דֹּר	אֶחָד:	מֶלֶךְ	גּוֹיִם	לְגִלְגָּל
<b>The king</b>	<b>of Dor</b>	<b>in the coast</b>	<b>of Dor</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>The king</b>	<b>of the nations</b>	<b>of Gilgal</b>
H4428	H1756	H5299	H1756	H259	H4428	H1471	H1537

אֶחָד:  
**one**  
H259

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 11:2** (Kingdom): And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

