

Joshua 13:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the countries which Moses did distribute for inheritance in the plains of Moab, on the other side Jordan, by Jericho, eastward.

Analysis

And half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan—This verse specifies the major cities within Manasseh's territory. The northern portion of Gilead (גַּלְעָד) was divided between Gad (southern) and Manasseh (northern). Ashtaroth (עִשְׂתָּרוֹת) was named after the Canaanite goddess Astarte, indicating the pagan religious landscape. That this city became Levitical (1 Chronicles 6:71) demonstrates redemptive transformation—what was dedicated to false gods became dedicated to serving the true God.

Edrei (אֶדְרֵי) was Og's second capital, site of his final defeat (Numbers 21:33-35, Deuteronomy 3:1-7). Archaeological excavations have revealed extensive underground complexes at Edrei, possibly explaining how Og's forces initially seemed impregnable. The mention of these royal cities as now belonging to Manasseh illustrates complete victory: Israel didn't merely defeat Og but inherited his infrastructure, economy, and strategic positions. This previews New Testament reality where believers inherit what Satan claimed—the earth is the Lord's (Psalm 24:1), and His people shall possess it.

Historical Context

Ashtaroth and Edrei were major Bronze Age cities in Bashan. Ashtaroth (modern Tell Ashtara) was a significant cult center for goddess worship. Edrei (modern Daraa, Syria) sits at a strategic crossroads controlling trade routes. The

underground city discovered there contains miles of tunnels and chambers carved from basalt, providing defensive advantages. These cities continued as important regional centers throughout Old Testament history.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the transformation of Ashtaroth from a pagan cult center to a Levitical city illustrate the gospel's power to redeem?
2. What does Israel's inheritance of Og's royal cities teach about believers receiving kingdom authority through Christ's victory?
3. How might the underground complexes of Edrei symbolize hidden strongholds that must be conquered in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

מֵשֶׁה	הַ	נָתַן	לְ	אֲשֶׁר	אָ	לְהָ
H4872				H428	H834	
did	distribute	for inheritance		These	are the	countries which Moses
			H5157			
מִזְרָחָה:	יְרִיחֹו	לִירְקָד	בְּצִדְקוֹת	מִזְרָחָה	יְרִיחֹו	eastward
in the plains	of Moab	on the other side	Jordan	by Jericho		
H6160	H4124	H5676	H3383	H3405		H4217

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