

Joshua 19:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ummah also, and Aphek, and Rehob: twenty and two cities with their villages.

Analysis

Ummah also, and Aphek, and Rehob: twenty and two cities with their villages—The summary lists **twenty and two cities** (עִירִים וְשֵׁטִיִּים esrim u'shtayim ir) with their **villages** (חֲצֵרֵיהֶן chatzreihen, unwalled settlements, daughter villages). **Aphek** means "fortress" or "stronghold," a common city name across Israel. The precision—exactly 22 cities—demonstrates the careful record-keeping and legal documentation of tribal inheritances.

The phrase "with their villages" indicates that each fortified city controlled surrounding agricultural settlements, creating economic and defensive networks. This settlement pattern reflects ancient Near Eastern urbanization where walled cities provided refuge during attack while villages enabled farming. God's inheritance wasn't just isolated towns but functioning regional systems with cities and satellite communities—complete socioeconomic structures, not mere real estate. The numbered inheritance emphasizes accountability: Asher received specific, measurable blessing.

Historical Context

The 22 cities formed a network controlling the western Galilee and coastal plain, one of Canaan's most fertile and strategic regions. The city-village structure (ir and chatzrim) was standard throughout the ancient Near East, with fortified urban centers governing agricultural hinterlands. This administrative system continued through Roman times when Galilee remained a populous, productive region.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the specific count (22 cities) challenge vague spirituality, showing that God's blessings are concrete and measurable?
2. What does the city-village structure teach about interdependence between different types of communities or roles within the church?
3. How should Christians steward "numbered inheritances"—specific, finite resources and opportunities—with accountability to the Giver?

Interlinear Text

וְעַמָּה	וְאַפֶּק	וְרֵחוֹב	עָרֵי	עֶשְׂרִים	וְשְׁנַיִם
Ummah	also and Aphek	and Rehob	cities	twenty	and two
H5981	H663	H7340	H5892	H6242	H8147

וּמִצְרֵיהֶן:

with their villages

H2691