

# Joshua 19:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**Ummah also, and Aphek, and Rehob: twenty and two cities with their villages**—The summary lists **twenty and two cities** עשרים ושתיים עיר (esrim u'shtayim ir) with their **villages** חצריהם (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

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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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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וְשָׁתַּת יְמֻמָּנִים עַשְׂרֵה יְמֻמָּנִים וְרֹחֶב בָּאָמִן תַּאֲפֵן קָרְבָּן וְעַמָּה הַ  
**Ummah**   **also and Aphek**   **and Rehob**   **cities**   **twenty**   **and two**  
H5981                    H663                    H7340                    H5892                    H6242                    H8147

וְמִצְרַיִם:  
**with their villages**  
H2691

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