

# Joshua 19:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Iron, and Migdal-el, Horem, and Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh; nineteen cities with their villages.

## Analysis

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**And Iron, and Migdal-el, Horem, and Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh; nineteen cities with their villages**—The final Naphtali cities include Migdal-el ('tower of God') and two 'Beth' compounds: Beth-anath ('house of [goddess] Anath') and Beth-shemesh ('house of the sun'). The pagan names reflect Canaanite origins, yet they became Israelite possessions.

God redeems pagan names and purposes. Cities dedicated to false gods now worship Yahweh. This foreshadows the Great Commission: all nations, including idol-worshippers, can become God's inheritance (Psalm 2:8). Conversion transforms purpose, not just individuals but places and cultures.

## Historical Context

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Beth-anath and Beth-shemesh reveal Canaanite polytheism—Anath was a war/fertility goddess, while sun worship was widespread. That Naphtali didn't rename these cities shows ancient Israel's inconsistent devotion, tolerating Canaanite influences that later corrupted their worship.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What pagan influences in culture can be redeemed for God's glory rather than merely rejected?
2. How does toleration of false worship practices eventually corrupt true faith?

## Interlinear Text

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וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן
And Iron	and Migdalel	Horem	and Bethanath		
H3375	H4027	H2765	H1043		
וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן	וּבְיָתָן
and Bethshemesh	cities	nineteen	with their villages		
H1053	H5892	H8672	H2691		

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