Joshua 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And Kibzaim with her suburbs, and Beth-horon with her
> suburbs; four cities.

Analysis

Kibzaim with her suburbs, and Beth-horon with her suburbs; four cities
(קִבְצַיִם וּבֵית־חוֹרֹן אַרְבַּע עָרִים, Kivtzayim uVeit-Choron arba arim)—Beth-horon ("house
of the hollow") consisted of Upper and Lower Beth-horon, twin fortress cities
controlling the crucial Beth-horon ascent from the coastal plain to the central
highlands. Joshua's greatest victory occurred here when God rained down
hailstones and stopped the sun, allowing complete destruction of the Amorite
coalition (Joshua 10:10-14). Five kings died at this location. That such a strategic
military site became a Levitical city demonstrates the principle that Israel's true
strength was spiritual, not martial.

Kibzaim appears only here; 1 Chronicles 6:68 lists Jokmeam instead, likely the
same site with variant spelling. The summary **four cities** from Ephraim provided
the non-Aaronic Kohathites with their first allocation, continuing in verses 23-26.

Historical Context

Beth-horon (Beit Ur el-Fauqa and Beit Ur et-Tahta) guarded the most important
route from the coast to Jerusalem, ascending 800 feet in 2.5 miles through a
narrow pass—perfect for ambush. Every invading army used this route: Joshua
(Joshua 10), Philistines (1 Samuel 13:18), Egyptians (1 Kings 9:17), Seleucids
fought by the Maccabees (1 Maccabees 3:13-24), and Romans under Cestius
(Josephus, Wars 2.19.8). Solomon fortified both cities (1 Kings 9:17; 2 Chronicles

8:5). Its allocation to Levites meant priests controlled Israel's most strategic military corridor.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Beth-horon's dual identity as miracle site and Levitical city emphasize that spiritual reality undergirds military victory?
2. What does Levitical control of strategic military locations teach about the priority of spiritual warfare over physical?
3. How did placing priests at bottleneck locations like Beth-horon ensure that every invading army encountered God's representatives?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת	קִבְצַ֫יִם	וְאֶת	הָ מִגְרָשֶׁ	וְאֶת	יַת בֵּ֫	חוֹר֔וֹן	וְאֶת
H853	**And Kibzaim**	H853	**with her suburbs**	H853	H0	**and Bethhoron**	H853
	H6911		H4054			H1032	

הָ מִגְרָשֶׁ	יִם עָרִ֫	אַרְבַּ֫ע׃					
with her suburbs	**cities**	**four**					
H4054	H5892	H702					