

Megiddo



- A town of importance in Palestine, located in the southern part of the Plain of Esdraelon (Jezreel).
 - It commanded a critical pass from the north.
 - 130 to 200 feet above the Esdraelon valley.
 - Covers an area of approximately 15 acres.
- The Via Maria (“Way of the Sea”) which connected the lands of Egypt and Assyria, passed by Megiddo.
- Archaeologists have uncovered nearly 25 different civilizations from before 3300 B.C. to 350 B.C. when the city finally fell into ruins. Megiddo has a 3,000 year history.
- It was one of the royal cities of Canaan whose king was conquered by Joshua and the Israelites. **Joshua 12:7-21**
- It was first assigned to the tribe of Issachar and later to the Manassites, who failed to drive out the inhabitants. **Joshua 17:11-13; Judges 1:27**
- At the time of Solomon it was firmly occupied by the Israelites. Solomon appointed one of its officers as his commissary. **1 Kings 4:12**
- Ahaziah, king of Judah, fled with Jehu in pursuit, was shot while fleeing in his chariot, and died at Megiddo. A chariot took his body back to Jerusalem for burial. **1 Kings 8:25-9:28**
- Solomon also strengthened the fortifications. **1 Kings 9:15**
- Josiah was slain (shot by archers) in Megiddo in a battle against Pharaoh-Nicoh, King of Egypt. **2 Kings 23:29**
- Megiddo is celebrated in the Song of Deborah. **Judges 4**
- Premillennialists see Megiddo as the scene of the terrible final conflict, the Battle of Armageddon. **Revelation 16:16**

- Meggido memorializes grief. **Zechariah 12:11**
- The tunnel and water system of Megiddo that provided water to the city in time of siege.
 - A shaft some 80 feet deep.
 - Steps cut out of the side of the shaft.
 - At the base of the shaft is a tunnel that runs under the mound to a spring outside the walls.
 - The tunnel is 230' long and 10' wide.
 - The spring was covered to prevent the enemy from detecting its location.
 - The water system is dated variously from about 1200 B.C. to the time of Ahab (874-853 B.C.)
 - Was dug simultaneously from both ends (similar to the Hezekiah tunnel in Jerusalem). The two passages were just over three feet off when they met.

