

Ijon

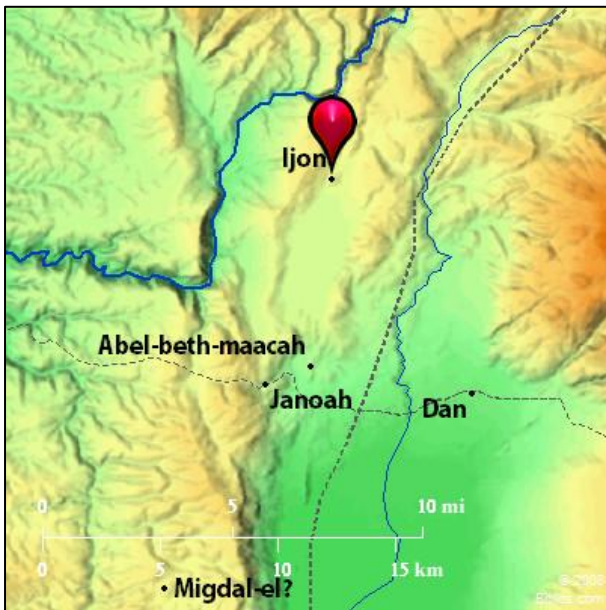
Also known as:

The Septuagint translation in the books of Kings has Ain, or Nain; while in Chronicles it has Ion; Aion).

Etymology

Hebrew - a ruin (BDB).

Location/Description



The town of Ijon was a fortified town (or a storage city) of note in the territory of the tribe of Naphtali in a fertile plain called Merj Ayun.



Scriptural references

Old Testament

1 Kings 15:20 – “So Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelbeth-maacah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.”

2 Kings 15:29 – “In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbeth-maacah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.”

2 Chron. 16:4 – “And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.”

Famous characters

Benhadad; Tiglathpileser.

Brief history

Ijon was a store city in Naphtali southwest of Dan. It was captured in the days of Asa by Benhadad of Syria and later the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser.

When kings Asa of Judah and Baasha of Israel were at war, Asa took the treasures of the house of Yahweh and donated them to Ben-hadad the king of Syria in order to secure his military services against Israel. Ben-hadad attacked Israel from the north overrunning Naphtali and capturing among other towns, Ijon.

Much later in the days of king Pekah of Israel, king Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria also invaded from the north into Israel conquering Naphtali first and sacking among others the town of Ijon (2 Kings 15:29). This time all the inhabitants were deported to Assyria — this event became known as the first deportation; the second deportation occurred under king Shalmaneser V.

Sources:

Smiths Bible Dictionary; Ungers Bible Dictionary; Wikipedia

(Compiler – Paul Myers)