**Hazor**

Meaning: enclosed; fortified

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| [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-uppercity-aerial-east.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-uppercity-east640.jpg) Aerial view from the southeast of excavated ruins of the upper city of Hazor (1). [Click for larger view.](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-uppercity-east640.jpg) Photos provided by ChristianAnswers Associate, [BiblePlaces](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/home.html). |

Hazor was the name of four biblical places…

1. The most well-known city of Hazor is near Lake Merom, where it was strategically located on ancient trade routes from the north, east and west. It was controlled by both the Canaanites and Israelites, and was a major military objective of various ancient kings from as far away as Egypt. It is now the largest archaeological site in Israel.

"A stronghold of the [Canaanites](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/canaanites.html) in the mountains north of Lake [Merom](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/merom.html) ([Josh. 11:1-5](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh11.html#1)). [Jabin](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jabin.html) the king with his allied tribes here encountered [Joshua](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/joshua.html) in a great battle. Joshua gained a signal victory, which virtually completed his conquest of [Canaan](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/canaan.html) ([11:10-13](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh11.html#10)).

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|  | [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstablestorehouse300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstablestorehouse800.jpg) Excavated stable storehouse building in Hazor ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstablestorehouse800.jpg))  [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-citadel300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-citadel800.jpg) Excavated citadel found at Hazor, dating to the Iron Age. ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-citadel800.jpg))  [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-4roomhouse300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-4roomhouse800.jpg) Four room house excavated in ancient Hazor ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-4roomhouse800.jpg))   |  | | --- | | **Biblical Summary** |  |  | | --- | | * 1. Hazor was a heathen Canaanite city.   2. Conquered and burned by Joshua in his victory over a league of northern Canaanite cities at Lake [Merom](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/merom.html) ([Joshua 11:1-11](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh11.html)).   3. City came under the ownership of the [tribe of Naphtali](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/naphtalitribeof.html) ([Joshua 19:36](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh19.html#36)).   4. Later, Hazor was again taken by Canaanites.   5. [Deborah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/deborah.html) delivered Israel from the oppression of the King of Hazor and “king of Canaan” ([Jabin](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jabin.html)) and his general [Sisera](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sisera.html) ([Judges 4-5](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg4.html)). Hazor was again part of the kingdom of Israel.   6. King [Solomon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html) fortified Hazor to control the northern portion of the “Way of the Sea” ([1 Kings 9:15](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/1ki9.html#15)).   7. Destroyed by [Ben-Hadad I](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ben-hadad.html) of [Damascus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/damascus.html) when he invaded Israel at King [Asa's](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/asa.html) invitation ([1 Kings 15:18](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/1ki15.html#18)).   8. Rebuilt by Israelites (possibly by [Omri](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/omri.html) or [Ahab](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ahab.html)).   9. Hazor destroyed for the last time by Assyrian king [Tiglath-pileser III](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tiglath-pileser3.html) in 733 BC ([2 Kings 15:29](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2ki15.html#29)). The Israelites were taken captive to Assyria. | |

This city was, however, afterwards rebuilt by the Canaanites, and was ruled by a king with the same hereditary name of [Jabin](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jabin.html). His army, under a noted leader of the name of [Sisera](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sisera.html), swept down upon the south, aiming at the complete subjugation of the country.

This powerful army was met by the Israelites under [Barak](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/barak.html), who went forth by the advice of the [prophetess](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/prophet.html) [Deborah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/deborah.html). The result was one of the most remarkable victories for Israel recorded in the Old Testament ([Josh. 19:36](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh19.html#36); [Judg. 4:2](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg4.html#2); [1 Sam. 12:9](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/1sam12.html#9)). The city of Hazor was taken and occupied by the Israelites.

It was fortified by [Solomon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html) to defend the entrance into the kingdom from [Syria](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/syria.html) and [Assyria](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html). When Tiglath-pileser, the Assyrian king, invaded the land, this was one of the first cities he captured, carrying its inhabitants captive into Assyria ([2 Kings 15:29](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2ki15.html#29)) " (Matthew G. Easton).

ChristianAnswers.Net's archaeology Team Member, [Associates for Biblical Research](http://www.biblearchaeology.org/), has been doing extensive research at Hazor:

**Why Dig Hazor?**

Hazor is an important and impressive site. In fact, Hazor is the largest archaeological site in Israel. This 200-acre city consists of two parts, the Upper City, or Acropolis, and the Lower City. The next largest cities, apart from [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html), are [Gezer](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/gezer.html) and [Lachish](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/lachish.html) at 18 acres. Hazor is eleven times the size of these cities!

"For the student of the Bible, Hazor has an impressive amount of Biblical history and the archaeological remains to go along with it.

The first mention of Hazor in the Bible is in [Joshua 11](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh11.html).

"[Joshua](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/joshua.html) turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms. And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire. But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned" ([11:10,11,13](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh11.html#10); cf. [12:19](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh12.html#19)).

The first Israeli excavator of Hazor, Yigel Yadin, and the present excavator, Amnon Ben-Tor, believe the burn level of the Late Bronze II period is evidence of [Joshuas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/joshua.html) destruction.

Hazor was allotted to the [tribe of Naphtali](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/naphtalitribeof.html) ([Josh. 19:36](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh19.html#36)) and is mentioned in the account of [Judges 4](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg4.html) and [5](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg5.html), the story of [Deborah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/deborah.html) and [Barak](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/barak.html) ([Judges 4:2-3](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg4.html#2), [24](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/judg4.html#24)).

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| [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorsolomongate300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorsolomongate800.jpg) Excavated ruins of Solomon's six-chambered gate at Hazor ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorsolomongate800.jpg)) |  |

Yadin excavated a very impressive six-chambered gate dating to the 10th century BC and built by King [Solomon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html). Similar gates from this period were discovered at [Megiddo](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/megiddo.html) and [Gezer](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/gezer.html). Yadin connected this phenomenon with a passage in the Scriptures,

"And this is the reason for the labor force which King [Solomon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html) raised to build: to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the [Millo](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/millo.html), the wall of [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html), Hazor, [Megiddo](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/megiddo.html), and [Gezer](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/gezer.html)" ([1 Kings 9:15](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/1ki9.html#15)).

In the mid-8th century BC an extraordinary earthquake hit the Middle East. [Amos](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/amos.html) ([1:2](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/amos1.html#2)) as well as [Isaiah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/isaiah.html) ([2:19, 21](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa2.html#19)) predicted this earthquake. Yadin discovered evidence for this earthquake in the 1950s in Area A. …Walls were uncovered that tilted to the south or east and collapsed floors were found. …The prophets warned the people to humble themselves because they were proud and haughty. If they did not, the prophets said, God would humble them with an earthquake ([Isa. 2](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa2.html)). …Based on the archaeological evidence, it was determined that the magnitude of this quake measured at 8.2 on the Richter scale! That was a big quake.

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|  | [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstandingstones300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstandingstones800.jpg) Standing stones found at Hazor. ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorstandingstones800.jpg)) |

[Israel](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/israelkingdomof.html), the Northern Kingdom, did not heed the words of the [prophets](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/prophet.html). [Amos](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/amos.html) predicted that a greater judgment would fall on Israel if they did not return to the Lord. That judgment was an invasion by the [Assyrians](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html). In 732 BC, the Assyrian king, [Tiglath-Pileser III](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tiglath-pileser3.html) invaded Israel.

"In the days of [Pekah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/pekah.html) king of Israel, [Tiglath-Pileser](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tiglath-pileser3.html) king of Assyria came and took [Ijon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ijon.html), [Abel Beth Maachah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/abel-beth-maachah.html), [Janoah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/janoah.html), [Kedesh](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/kedesh.html), Hazor, [Gilead](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/gilead.html), and [Galilee](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/galilee.html), all the land of [Naphtali](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/naphtali.html); and he carried them captive to [Assyria](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html)" ([2 Kings 15:29](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2ki15.html#29); cf. [Isa, 9:1](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa9.html)).

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|  | [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-weapons300.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-weapons800.jpg) Ancient metal weapons discovered in Hazor excavations. ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-weapons800.jpg)) |

At one point during the excavation I was clearing a street level, the area supervisor called it a junkyard. Among other things, I found five [arrowheads](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/arrows.html), one spear point and a [sickle](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sickle.html), all possibly associated with the [Assyrian](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html) attack on the city in 732 BC. As I was digging, I was wondering to myself, why would God allow the Assyrians to attack Israel?

I recalled the words of the [prophet](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/prophet.html) [Isaiah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/isaiah.html),

"Woe to [Assyria](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html), the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is my indignation. I will send him against and ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath" ([10:5, 6a](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa10.html#5)).

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|  | [http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-lion150.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-lion.jpg) Basalt statue of a lion found in ancient Hazor (1). ([click for larger view](http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazor-lion.jpg))  http://www.christiananswers.net/bibleplaces/hazorseatedbasaltfigure150.jpg Sculpture in basalt of a seated king or pagan deity. Discovered at Hazor (1). |

God used the Assyrians to chasten Israel in order to bring them back to Himself. They did not respond positively to the message of the prophets so they were taken into [captivity](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/captivity.html) ([Lev. 26:32-39](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/lev26.html#32); [Deut. 28:58-67](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/deu28.html#58)).

Interestingly enough, Yadin discovered partially eaten [pigs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/swine.html) underneath the [Assyrian](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/assyria.html) destruction level. This indicates that the [Israelites](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/israelkingdomof.html) were eating pork just prior to the destruction of the city, something the [prophet](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/prophet.html) [Isaiah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/isaiah.html) condemned because the [Mosaic Law](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/lawofmoses.html) forbade it ([Isa. 65:1-4](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa65.html); [66:17](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa66.html#17), cf. [Lev. 11:7](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/lev11.html#7))."

*Author of above text*: Gordon Franz, [Associates for Biblical Research](http://www.biblearchaeology.org/)

1. "A city in the south of [Judah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/judahkingdomof.html) ([Josh. 15:23](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh15.html#23)). The name here should probably be connected with the word following, Ithnan, Hazor-Ithnan instead of "Hazor and Ithnan.'"
2. "A district in [Arabia](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/arabia.html) ([Jer. 49:28-33](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/jer49.html#28)), supposed by some to be Jetor, i.e., [Ituraea](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ituraea.html)."
3. "'[Kerioth](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/kerioth.html) and [Hezron](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/hezron.html)'" ([Josh. 15:25](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh15.html#25)) should be “Kerioth-hezron” (as in the R.V.), the two names being joined together as the name of one place (e.g., like [Kirjath-jearim](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/kirjath-jearim.html)), “the same is Hazor” (R.V.). This place has been identified with el-Kuryetein, and has been supposed to be the home of [Judas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/judas.html) [Iscariot](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/iscariot.html). (See [Kerioth](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/kerioth.html).)"

*Author: Matthew G. Easton.*

ALSO SEE:

* [Hazor-Hadattah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/hazor-hadattah.html)
* [Baal-Hazor](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/baal-hazor.html)
* [http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/btn-archaeology.gif](http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html)  See our large [Bible Archaeology](http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html) section.