



Lessons From the... **Holy Lands**

Lesson 1

Caesarea Maritima, Tel Megiddo, Valley of Jezreel

Caesarea Maritima



Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19;
18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13





Caesarea Maritima



- ❧ “Maritima” means “by the sea”
- ❧ Known simply as “Caesarea” in scripture
 - ❧ Not to be confused with Caesarea Philippi in the Galilean Peninsula
- ❧ Built by Herod the Great between approximately 22 and 10 B.C. and was named for Caesar Augustus.
- ❧ Herod built this city to serve the needs of the Roman Empire, because it did not have a major harbor in Israel.
- ❧ A massive project → there is not a natural bay. They used huge blocks of sandstone assembled with lead to build the harbor.
- ❧ At its peak, Caesarea had a population of over 100,000 people.
- ❧ The excavated ruins today cover the Roman, Byzantine, Muslim, and Crusader periods.

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ❧ The ruins at Caesarea are very important because they show us what a Roman city looked like at that time.
- ❧ It was built according to a “Hippodamian Plan” which consisted of horizontal and vertical roads creating square-shaped patterns that contained buildings.
- ❧ It shows that Romans planned out their cities in detail before starting to build. This style was invented by the architect Hippodamus of Miletus.
- ❧ Caesarea was full of sculptures, as was typical of Roman cities of the time (All of them are headless as they were beheaded by Muslims because Islam does not allow icons).



Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ❧ The city only appears in the book of Acts
 - ❧ Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19; 18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13
- ❧ First mentioned when Philip came to Caesarea as he went from city to city, spreading the gospel after the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:40).
- ❧ After Paul's conversion, Paul was brought to Caesarea and sent on a ship to Tarsus to avoid death by those who were opposed to his testimony (Acts 9:30).
- ❧ Caesarea was the home of Cornelius, and was mentioned in Acts 10:1, 24 and 11:1 related to his conversion.

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ❧ Soon after Peter escaped from prison, Herod Agrippa I journeyed to Caesarea where he made his final speech “upon the throne” (Acts 12:19–23). Acts records that he sat down and praised himself as one with the voice of a god (Acts 12:22). An angel of the Lord struck him down (with worms) because he did not give God the glory (Acts 12:23).
- ❧ During Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, after he landed at Caesarea, he greeted the church (Acts 18:22).
- ❧ During his third missionary journey, Paul visits Philip the evangelist, who had a house in Caesarea (Acts 21:8).

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ✧ The last mention of Caesarea comes in chapters 23 through 26, in which Paul appears before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa II (Acts 23:33–26:32). When Paul arrives in Caesarea, he is kept in “Herod’s praetorium.” (Acts 23:35).
- ✧ The palace at Caesarea was likely used by Pontius Pilate while he was a Roman Governor before moving to Jerusalem. An inscription mentioning him was found in Caesarea, and there is a replica of this inscription on the palace site today.
- ✧ The synagogue at Caesarea was also where the Jewish revolt against the Romans began in 67 A.D.











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של תרבות
במאה ה-1

...BERIEVA
...VSPILAVS
...TSMOT...



































Jezreel Valley



Judges 4-7; 1 Samuel 31

Jezreel and its Valley



Jezreel Valley



- ❧ This valley is south of Galilee and north of the hill country of Ephraim.
- ❧ Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites in the Jezreel Valley (Judges 4–5).
- ❧ Gideon fought and defeated the Midianites on a hill in this valley with just 300 men (Judges 6–7).
- ❧ Saul camped at the spring of Jezreel before his final battle with the Philistines and his death on Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31).

















Tel Megiddo



Josh 12:21, 17:11; Judges 1:27, 5:19; 1 Kgs 4:12, 9:15; 2 Kgs 9:27, 23:29-30;
1 Chronicles 7:29; 2 Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:11

Jezreel and its Valley



Tel Megiddo



- ❧ Megiddo is a fortress city that dates back to about 5,000 B.C., located on the southwest side of the Jezreel Valley at the foot of Mount Carmel.
- ❧ Megiddo was a city that was located on the Via Maris, an ancient trade route linking Egypt with the northern empires of Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Megiddo's location on this route showed that the city was very significant.
- ❧ This is also evidenced by the words of Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th century B.C.) of Egypt, "... for the capturing of Megiddo is the capturing of a thousand cities."

Tel Megiddo (Cont.)

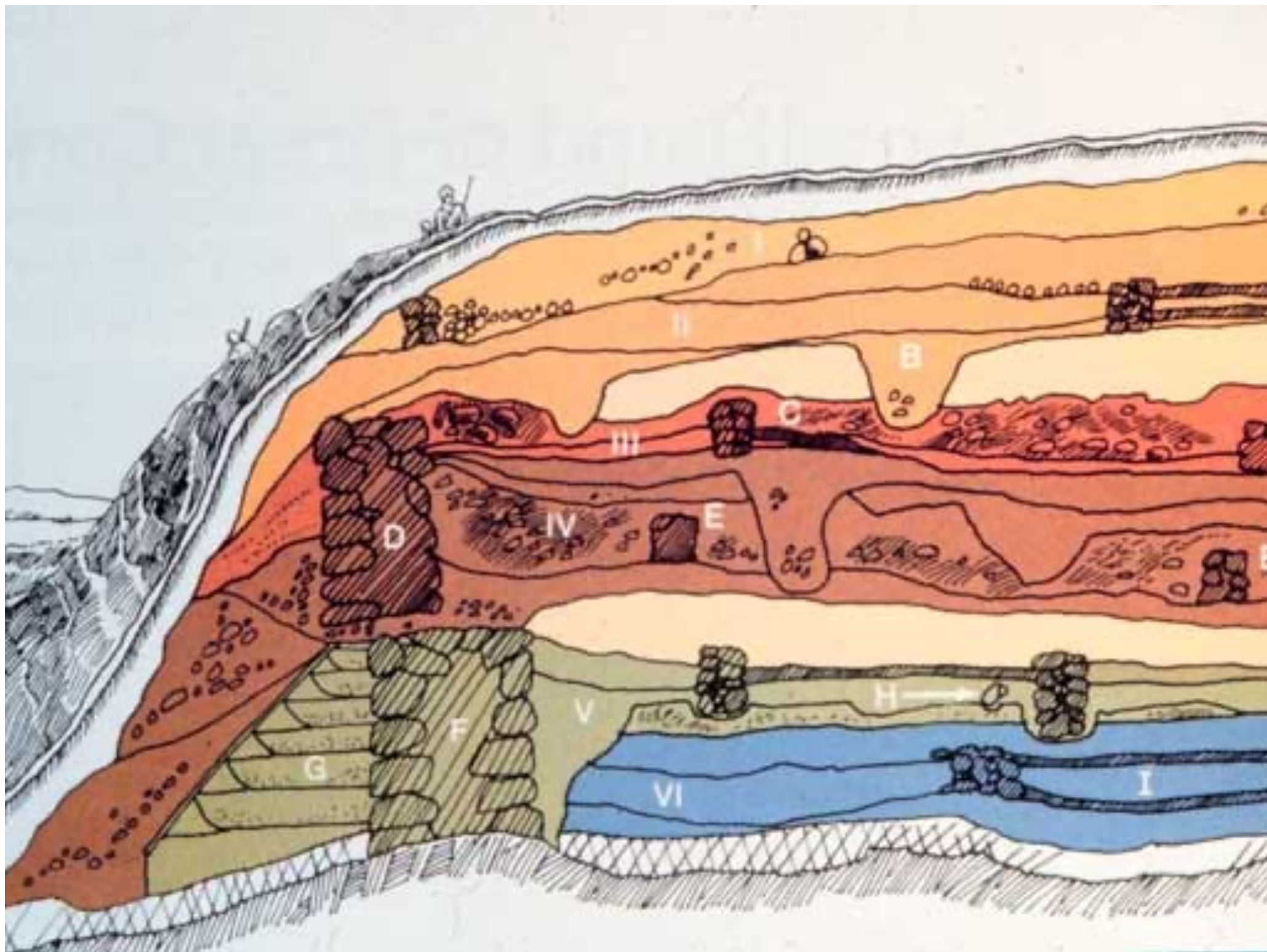


- ❧ Megiddo is referenced 12 times in the Old Testament.
- ❧ Megiddo is mentioned among the cities conquered by Joshua (Josh 12:21), though apparently they were unsuccessful at fully driving out the Canaanites (Josh 17:11).
- ❧ During the reign of Solomon, Megiddo was fortified along with Gezer and Hazor (1 Kgs 9:15).
- ❧ The city fell to Shishak (925 BC) and to Tiglath-pileser III in 733 BC.
- ❧ Josiah died at Megiddo in 609 BC in his confrontation with Pharaoh Neco (2 Kgs 23:29).

Tel Megiddo (Cont.)



- ❧ Megiddo was destroyed 30 times by waves of conquerors, and this has resulted in 30 levels or strata that comprise the Tel.
- ❧ According to tradition this will be the site of Armageddon as described in Revelation 16
 - ❧ Most likely this association is metaphor





























Water System at Megiddo

