

The Biblical Archaeology Forum (BAF) presents:

What Do Ancient Documents Tell Us About the People Who Lived At Hazor?

Amnon Ben-Tor | Hebrew University & Director of Excavations at Hazor

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Hazor was strategically located in Canaan on ancient trade routes from the north, east and west. According to the Bible, the Israelites under Joshua burned Hazor; later, it was rebuilt by the Canaanites. At the advice of the prophetess Deborah it was taken by Barak, who went forth against the Canaanite king Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots and had ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. The result was one of the most remarkable victories for Israel recorded in the Bible.



Hazor is now the largest archaeological site in Israel. Documents discovered at Hazor, and some discovered in other places, shed a vivid light on various aspects of life of the inhabitants of Hazor, the major metropolis referred to in the Bible as "the Head of all Those Kingdoms" (Joshua 11:10). Ancient practices of law, education, economy, culture and international relations come to life in these texts as described by Hazor excavations director Amnon Ben Tor.

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