

This view looks north along the Mediterranean coastal plain that lies south of Mt. Carmel. The mound of Dor (with excavation sites visible) stands on the north of its shallow, natural bay in the bottom half of the slide. We identify ancient Dor with the site of Khirbet el-Burj (Ruin of the Castle) on the Mediterranean coast about nine miles north of Caesarea. Dor is first mentioned in an Egyptian inscription of Ramesses II in the 13th century B.C.E., but excavations show that the Egyptians actually founded Dor earlier, in the 15th or 14th century B.C.E. In the Bible the king of Dor joined a coalition of Canaanite kings under Jabin, king of Hazor, in the unsuccessful war against Joshua (Joshua 11:1-2). The Israelites defeated the king of Dor (Joshua 12:23). Dor belonged to the cities of Manasseh in the territory of Asher, but the Asherites did not conquer it (Judges 1:27). According to the Egyptian tale of Wen-Amun, about 1100 B.C.E., Dor fell into the hands of the Tjeker, one of the Sea Peoples who invaded Egypt with the Peleset (Philistines). Later, when it was an Israelite city, Solomon made Dor the fourth district of his kingdom (1 Kings 4:11). The Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III destroyed the city in 732 B.C.E. with the general destruction of Israel, according to 2 Kings 15:29. But the history of Dor continued, for its name in Assyrian was used for the name of the Assyrian province west of Megiddo. Under the Persians in the sixth century B.C.E., Dor became an autonomous Sidonian colony. In the Hellenistic Period (from 332 B.C.E.) it was a Ptolemaic fortress and commercial port. The Hasmonean king Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 B.C.E.) gained Dor in 103 B.C.E. by negotiation with Ptolemy Lathyrus, king of Cyprus, who subdued Dor. It became self-governing again with the coming of the Romans in 63 B.C.E.