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### The city of Jezreel Site Research Paper

The ancient city of Jezreel is an important city in the northern kingdom of Israel during biblical times, located in the Jezreel Valley. The city was founded in the early Iron Age, and it was an important center of power. Excavations have revealed a fortified city, including a large palace, houses, public buildings and other structures. The city is strategically located at the crossroads of several important trade routes, which made it an important center of commerce and culture. The city was also an important agricultural region. According to the Bible, the ancient city was the site of several important events, including the biblical events of King Omri and King Ahab. Today it is an archeological site.

If you ever find yourself visiting the site, you will learn that it is a historical part of Jezreel Valley dating back to ancient times. Although the exact age of the city is difficult to determine, there is plenty of archaeological evidence supporting its habitation throughout centuries by various groups. The city is located in the Jezreel Valley, today known as Tel Jezreel. The geography of the site is a large fertile plain in northern Israel. The Valley itself is surrounded by hills and mountains. The fertile land made it an important location for agricultural productivity for the Israelites. The city of Jezreel was strategically located near the Via Maris trade route running from the north to the south. The climate today for the valley is Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild, rainy winters. This would be an ideal climate for the

city as well, with not much of a difference in ancient times. The agricultural and commerce benefits to the kingdom made it a place of conflict and interest.

According to the Bible the city may have been by a man named Ezer, who was a descendant of the tribe of Issachar. In the book of 1 Kings and 2 Kings, King Omri or his son King Ahab are accredited to have built a large palace in the city. They ruled approximately from 880-853 B.C. The Assyrian king, Shalmaneser III had fought against a coalition of western kings. Based on the inscriptions on a stele that he left discovered in 1861 at Kurkh, Shalmaneser had mentioned “Ahab of Israelite” as one of those kings. This gives confirmation of Israelite kings(s), and a relation to an historical event that can be dated. In Old Testament times, Israelite Kings had amassed this city as a place of pagan worship

Archeological evidence supports the destruction and rebuilding of this city by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and romans. The findings in this site include pottery, structures of public buildings, houses and fortifications. There is a military fortress, archaeological evidence of a winery located east of Jezreel that may be linked to Naboth’s vineyard, and pottery shards that can be found in the city date from many different periods as far back as 2000 B.C. The conglomerate of materials found by recent excavations at Jezreel continues to shed light on the mass array of historical accounts associated with the city of Jezreel. There is without a doubt that the large amount of archeological evidence not only supports biblical Jezreel, but also acts as a great source of primary information for modern day scholars.

Today visitors may visit the city of Jezreel, or also known as Tel-Jezreel, as a place of rich history. Not only is the biblical association greatly enhanced by learning about real archaeological finds, one may discover a rich history of other cultures as well. There is actually

so much relevance regarding the physical location of the city of Jezreel, that many civilizations become intertwined with its location. This makes the site a complex place of study, as a vast majority of what remains unearthed is layered between centuries of materials. The city of Tel-Jezreel continues to draw visitors seeking ancient mysteries, or a first look at the new discoveries made within the last two decades. One may find a variety of ancient artifacts in the ruins, and with modern methods of analysis, it has become much easier to piece together mysteries that remained unknown for centuries.