

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON

Lesson 10

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move!

Lessons 5-10: Conquest of Canaan Josh. 5:1-12:24

Lesson 10: Formidable Alliance of North Canaan Defeated/Summary of All Victories Josh. 11:1-12:24

Today's Study: Josh. 11:1-12:24

1. Alliance of North Canaan Josh.11:1-5
2. Assurance and Realization of Victory Josh. 11:6-15
3. Astounding Victory Josh. 11:16-20
4. Anakims Destroyed Josh. 11:21-24
5. Acquired East of Jordan ... Conquest by Moses Josh. 12:1-6
6. Acquired West of Jordan ... Conquered by Joshua Josh. 12:7-24

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION

1. Brief Review of Josh. 10

In essence what we have in Josh. 10 is the Israelite army, under Joshua's command responding to the request of the Gibeonites for help because they were under attack by the southern coalition forces. These invading forces were destroyed and Israel also conquered other southern cities and completed the southern campaign in Canaan.

We discussed Josh. 10 under four main points that were covered in two lessons.

(a) **Conspiracy of the Five Kings Josh. 10:1-5**

- (1) Adonizedek, king of Jerusalem, was deeply concerned about the advancing Israelite forces and saw the imminent danger he was facing.
 - With Ai and Bethel conquered (Josh., NB v. 17) and the Gibeonites forming a peace treaty with Israel, Adonizedek felt even more threatened.
 - Gibeon was not only a larger city than Ai or Bethel but it was closer to Jerusalem which was another reason for Adonizedek to be greatly concerned.
- (2) Adonizedek took the initiative to contact four other royal cities: Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon to form an alliance with the intention of invading Gibeon.

(b) Call for Help/Complied With Josh. 10:5014

- (1) The formation of the southern alliance had two main objectives:
 - To punish the Gibeonites for betraying the Canaanites nation by making alliance with an enemy nation, namely Israel.
 - To retake the city of Gibeon, placing it under Canaanite control because of its strategic military importance.
- (2) Associating with Israel meant affiliation for those who committed themselves to serve the true and living God. Briefly note two things:
 - Frequently, when people identify themselves with God, opposition arise quickly.
 - People have always sought to free themselves from God and righteousness although real freedom is found in Jesus Christ.
 - Note the Following:
“We can find the one sure route to freedom by wholeheartedly serving God the Creator. God can set you free to be the person He created you to be.”
- (3) The city of Gibeon was under attack by the southern coalition forces and the Gibeonites somehow got a messenger through the enemy’s line and contact was made with Joshua (v. 6).
 - Having prayed-up, Joshua was given the assurance by God of success over the coalition forces (v. 8).
 - Joshua marched to face the enemy and to honor the treaty Israel made with Gibeon.
- (4) Israel marched all night (about 20 miles) and attacked the enemy forces by surprise.
 - The “God of Battles” was with His people.
 - He created chaos among the enemy forces (v. 10) which helped Israel to gain control over the battle.
 - Realizing they were being defeated the coalition forces began to flee but God slew more of the enemy forces with hailstones than the Israelite soldiers killed with the sword (v. 11).
 - Observing the battle as it progressed, Joshua realized that he needed more time in order to destroy the enemy.
 - He prayed a bold prayer to the God he served and God answered!
 - He requested that the sun and moon stood still (v. 12).
 - **“Who is the king of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty; the Lord invincible in battle” (Psa. 24:8 LASB).**
 - Just as God was there for Israel, even so He is with us! God is always there for us!!
 - Psa. 57:2 Amplified Bible**
 - “I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and reward me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]!”

- Whatever method God used, the extension of that day was an extraordinary answer to a bold prayer (Josh. 12:12-14)
- For Joshua, there was no doubt, no hesitation in making such request to prolong the day because he knew whom he believed; he believed in the power of God that it was above the power of nature and able to control and alter the usual course of it.
- The enemies came in their might and in multitude and God granted sufficient time for Israel to realize a comprehensive victory.

(c) **Completing the Task . . . The Five Kings Conquered Josh. 10:15-27**

- (1) Just amazing to see the mighty and powerful, the ferocious and intimidating become so despondent and hopeless!
 - These mighty kings of the southern coalition entered the battle with the intention to instill fear and hopelessness, now they were like hunted animals desperately seeking a source of refuge!
 - The five kings sought refuge in a cave, in the vicinity of Makkedah (v. 16).
- (2) When Joshua was informed about the hiding place of these five kings, he had the cave secured, put guards in place and continued destroying the common soldiers (Vv. 17-19)
- (3) Joshua then had the five kings brought forth to face their fate.
 - They were executed and the bodies hung on trees until evening (Vv. 22-27).
 - The bodies of the five kings were placed in the cave where they sought refuge. The cave was sealed and served as a **warning memorial** to all unrighteousness in the world.
 - We mentioned earlier about those who uselessly seek freedom by refusing and rejecting God. Here is another object lesson ... as it relates to the five kings seeking refuge in the cave ... note:
“That which they thought would have been their shelter from all harm was made their prison first and then their grave!!”

“There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12 Amp. Bible)

(d) **Conquest of the Southern Nations Josh. 10:28-43**

- (1) The chief fortified cities whose armies were conquered in the field were: Lachish Vv. 31-32, Eglon Vv. 34-35 and Hebron Vv. 36-37. *(At this time Jerusalem and Jarmuth were not taken).*
- (2) Three other royal cities conquered were Makkedah v. 28, Libnah Vv. 29-30 and Debir Vv. 38-39.
- (3) Gezer went to the aid of Libnah and was conquered (v. 33).

- (4) An important lesson to be learnt from Joshua's swift focused effort is: **"A great deal of work can be accomplished in a little time if we will be busy and improve our opportunities.**

2. Introduction to Josh. 11:1-12:24

I was deeply moved by the quote below, especially that it addressed the warfare for precious souls. This is the core of our ministries: Beloved, we fight for the salvation of souls and the nurturing of our beloved saints to the glory of God. The quote reminds me of a thought shared with me during my early years as a Christian: "The Church's role is to admonish, edify and nurture." Yes, other areas are essential but these are core values.

*The following quote is taken from *The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible*:
 "Wars are continually being fought all over the world, and there are always rumors of wars. There are constant uprisings, terrorist actions, and military struggles being waged, both among and within nations. But the wars and struggles being fought are not the only conflicts being waged in the lives of people. As tragic as all these conflicts are, there is a far more serious warfare being waged against mankind. That warfare is the spiritual conflict that everyone of us experiences day by day. Conflict between good and evil, between right and wrong. This is the conflict known as spiritual warfare, the conflict that is struggling the human soul. This spiritual conflict can defeat and destroy the human soul and take it into the pit of hell itself. **If evil wins out over the soul of a human being, that human being is doomed to spend eternity out of the presence of God. He will never be accepted by God, not allowed to live in God's presence.** The sinful, evil soul will spend eternity separated, cut off, doomed from God's presence eternally.*

Thus the spiritual warfare being waged for the souls of people is the most critical battle that is being fought every day. Jesus Christ said that one soul is of more value than all the wealth of the world. Consequently, the loss of a soul to the conflict of evil is the worst imaginable fate. Evil dooms a soul eternally, forever and ever, time without end. This is the importance of this passage of Scripture (Josh. 11:1-12:24): it pictures for us the believer's spiritual warfare that is being constantly waged within his soul."

3. Israel in Canaan . . . A brief update

As seen in previous lessons, Joshua and his forces were making rapid progress in conquering Canaan, at this point the central and southern areas were already conquered. The final phase of the campaign was the northern cities.

This final phase of the campaign would be the most difficult:

- (a) The cities of the northern area were the strongest fortresses and they had valiant soldiers
- (b) They were more prepared as they had been following the victories realized by Israel which would have motivated these Canaanite forces to stay fit and ready for action.
- (c) They were determined to defend their cities at any cost, especially that it was known that God had promised Canaan to Israel as their inheritance.

Josh. 11:1-12:24 is an account of what happened in the northern campaign which concluded the conquest of Canaan. We are also presented with a summary of all the cities taken on both the east and west sides of Jordan River (chap. 12). It is a picture of the spiritual conflict being carried on daily between the enemies of evil and good ... the victory that God enables, for which man's innermost cries . . . it is what each person needs and can experience!

It is not the desire of Satan that anyone experiences the victory found in Jesus Christ:

2 Cor. 4:4 Amplified Bible

“For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers’ minds [that they should not discern the truth] preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the image and Likeness of God.”

Just as seen in these chapters there are forces of evil who unite and launch attacks against the cause of God, even so the warfare continues today (Eph. 6:10-18). Yet each person has a vacuum that only God can fill no matter what else he tries ... only God really delivers (Mark 5:25-34; etc.).

Beloved we must fight in the name of the LORD, enabled by Him!! There are souls to rescue souls to save!! We must be equipped and go in the strength of God because it is not by man's capabilities, etc. but by the enabling of God!! (Zech. 4:6b; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-8; etc.).

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Excerpts: Josh. 11:1, 4, 6, 8 NKJV

“And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he that he sent to so they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

But the LORD said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.'

And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chase them to Greater Sidon,; they attacked them until they left none of the remaining. So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire."

A. Alliance of Northern Canaan Josh. 11:1-5

1. Aggressors (Josh. 11:1-5)

- (a) The Canaanites in northern Canaan were the ones who started the military campaign.
 - (1) God allowed them to be the aggressors, the ones who started the war; this made the act of Israel's defense fully justified.
 - (2) Joshua and his forces had returned to Gilgal (Josh. 10:43) and most likely the Canaanites saw a great opportunity to get together and prepare to destroy the Israelites.
- (b) This was a final effort by the enemy to do what it can to stop Israel from entering the Promised Land.
 - (1) In full display, we have the enemy mobilizing its forces to defeat and destroy the Israelites, to keep them from securing their inheritance promised them by God.
 - (2) This is an example of a last-ditch effort of the enemy to defeat and destroy the believer. Satan will never give up, we must maintain watchfulness (1 Cor. 10:12; 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8; etc.).
- (c) These Canaanites were the aggressors but only to their destruction.
 - (1) Keep this thought in mind:

"Sinners bring ruin upon their own heads, so that God will be justified when He speaks, and they alone shall bear the blame. The uprising of the northern kings was at their own peril."
 - (2) Beloved, the resistance of the enemy only hasten their own destruction!

2. Arch Enemy (Josh. 11:1)

- (a) With the closing of the southern campaign, Joshua was soon challenged by united powers from north Canaan.
 - (1) The head of this coalition was Jabin king of Hazor (v. 1); in Israel's previous encounter with an opposing alliance the head of that coalition was Adonizedek (Josh. 10:1).
 - The city of Hazor is said to have had a population of 40,000, and was probably the largest city to be conquered by Joshua.
 - By conquering this city, the Israelites would break up the power structure north of the Jezreel valley and made the territory their own.

- Hazor was the largest city-state and a fortress north of the sea of Galilee, having more power than any other city-states.
- (2) Taking in consideration these features of Hazor, it meant that King Jabin was the most powerful king throughout northern Canaan.
 - (3) King Jabin was head of all the northern nations and they were placed under his jurisdiction.
 - (4) King Jabin was deeply concerned about the advancing Israelite forces and he sent out an urgent call for war, notifying every known king in the north (Vv. 1-3).
 - The call was made with a compelling tone and whatever differences these nations may have had with each other were to be forgotten, laid aside in order to properly address this most urgent situation.
 - This sort of coming together despite prevailing differences is seen in other situations, for example during the trial of Jesus Christ. Two opposing leaders, Pilate and Herod, reconciled as they seek to determine what action to take (See Luke 23, NB Vv. 1-12, highlight v. 12).
- (b) The northern Canaanites had to come together in order to get rid of this threatening situation.
- (1) All military exploits and crushing victories that Joshua had achieved were heard of and passed on to others and was made known throughout the surrounding nations.
 - (2) The Canaanite kings had heard how the LORD was giving His people, victory after victory as they marched forth to lay claim to the inheritance of the Promised Land.
 - (3) It is believed that Jabin's call-to-action was sent with such urgency and authority that everyone one was expected to respond without delay.
3. **All-Manner Of . . . But United** (Josh. 11:1-5)
- (a) Several nations joined in this confederacy . . . it was a great mixture
 - (1) Some came from the mountains and some in the plains, etc. (v. 2).
 - (2) Some came from Canaan east and west, some were Amorites, Hittite, Perizzite, etc. (v. 3)
 - (3) They were of different constitutions and different interest, yet they came united against a common enemy!!
 - (4) Matthew Henry notes:

"Thus are the children of this world more unanimous, and therein wiser, than the children of light. The oneness of the church's enemies should shame the church's friends out of their discords and divisions, and engage them to be one."
 - (b) The response to Jabin's call led to the mobilization of a huge army with horses and chariots (Josh. 11:4-5).

- (1) The response was overwhelming that it was described as: “. . . much people, even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many” (Josh. 11:4b KJV).
 - (2) This coalition (Josh. 11:1-5) far outnumbered the southern coalition (Josh. 10) and they were more formidable.
 - (3) The Jewish historian Josephus, say the northern coalition consisted of
 - 300,000 infantry or foot soldiers
 - 10,000 calvary
 - 20,00 chariots
- (c) Looking at these forces from a human perspective:
- (1) One would think that Joshua would need days to effectively plan a military strategy and to work the various armies into a cohesive and powerful military machine.
 - (2) The very thought, not to mention the sight, of such a large army with so many military men and chariots was enough to strike fear into the hearts of Joshua and the Israelites ... **but God!!**
 - (3) These people who were opposed to God’s purpose, had four advantages which might have brought them victory over Israel . . .
 - They were numerous and well equipped
 - They were united
 - They were trained
 - They were desperate
 - (4) Israel’s continued victories made them become targets, despised by the enemy. Israel was now physically and spiritually revived after the campaign against southern coalition. The devil was also ready to destroy the people of God.
 - This series of lessons are focused on the theme of “facing our challenges”; and it is interesting to note that the challenges faced by Israel just seem to increase and intensify and become more demanding! Just look at the size, the strength and equipment of the current coalition forces.
 - As believers, our challenges vary as we continue our earthly pilgrimage. Despite the challenges, we must persevere not in our strength but by being enabled by Him who is able to see us through! (**2 Tim. 1:12**, Eph. 3:20; Jude 24).
 - (5) By all appearances, Jabin had a clear advantage over Joshua and his outnumbered forces; **but those who honor God can be victorious regardless of the odds!**
2 Kings 6:16 Amplified Bible
 “[Elisha] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them.”
 (*Read the chapter, NB Vv. 8-17, highlight Vv. 16-17*)

B. Assurance and Realization of Victory Josh. 11:6-15**1. Assurance by God (Josh. 11:6)****(a) Challenge on hand (Josh. 11:1-5)**

- (1) As we saw in preceding verses, Jabin king of Hazor had mobilized an enormous army, armed with the “ultimate” weapon of warfare; their objective was to destroy Israel.
- (2) To the human eyes, for Israel to conquer such a well-equipped and large army was an impossibility but Israel served the God with whom nothing is impossible.

Matt. 19:26 NKJV

“ . . . ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

(b) Courage encouraged and conquest assured by God to His servant(v. 6)

- (1) When Joshua faced this well-equipped and enormous army, God reassured him of His presence and the need to be courageous . . . “Be not afraid” (v. 6).
 - Joshua is notable for his courage which was a blessing from His Master (Josh. 1:6; etc.) but here we have seen that he was once more cautioned “**not to be afraid.**”
 - **Fresh dangers and difficulties make it necessary to obtain fresh support and comfort from the Word of God which is always available to us.**

Heb. 4:16 ESV

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- (2) God assured Joshua of success and fixed the time when it would be realized.

Josh. 11:6a KJV

“And the LORD said unto Joshua, **Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow about this time I will deliver up all slain before you.**”

- Although the enemy would be slain by the swords of Israelite soldiers, yet it is spoken of as God’s work, that He would deliver them up!
- Despite the large numbers of the enemy forces, the victory would be realized in only one day!!

Ex. 14:14 Amplified Bible

“The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest.”

- (c) The assurance of victory was followed by special instructions:

Josh. 11:6b NKJV

“ . . . You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”

- (1) Hamstring their horses (*Briefly Noted*):

- This was done by cutting the main tendon above the ankle resulting in making the horse useless.
 - In other words, this act made the animals crippled or lame.
 - Note also that this act along with burning the chariots were done once the enemy was defeated.

- Crippling the horses and burning the chariots would also remove any temptation for Israel to place their trust in them.
- (2) While chariots were popular, in fact this was the ultimate weapon of the day but such usage would not be done by Israel.
- These weapons of warfare, destroyed by Israelite forces, were never again to be used in combat, not by Israel nor by any other armies (in reference to those destroyed by Joshua).
 - The trust and dependence of Israel was not in horses and chariots --- not in military armaments and technology but in the LORD!!
 - See Deut. 17:16; 2 Sam. 8:4; Isa. 31:1.
 - **Psa. 20:7 Amplified Bible**
“Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the Lord our God.”
2. **Attack Initiated/Victory Realized** (Josh. 11:7-9)
- (a) Surprise attack (v. 7)
- (1) The northern coalition forces were the ones to initiate war, therefore it would be expected that they would remain on full alert at all time!
- (2) Quick movement was an effective strategy used by Joshua (Josh. 10:9; 11:7).
- Joshua had no time to waste, no time to procrastinate especially with such a challenge from such a massive and well-equipped enemy!
 - In fact as we have seen in Joshua’s leadership, he was prompt, decisive, dedicated, etc. and when the occasion arose, he was up and ready to go, whether it meant rising early (Josh. 3:1; 6:15; etc.) or marching all night (Josh. 10:9), or whatever, he was ready for action!
- (3) Attacking the northern coalition, Joshua moved swiftly and remained focused on the objective to be accomplished.
- Before the news could reach the enemy, Israel was already on the march and were able to attack this great host of well-equipped warriors **“suddenly” (v. 7).**
 - **Joshua had infused his troops with a courageous spirit and unwavering faith in God!!**
 - The enemy did not have sufficient time to organize their forces . . . the attack was already in process!!
- (4) Note also that Joshua launched his swift and surprised attack at the waters of Merom (v. 7).
- It has been noted that this area where Joshua launched his attack was situated in the mountains or hills about 4,000 feet above sea level; consequently, chariots would not be an effective force in the battle.
 - His surprise attack clearly showed two things:
 - **First**, he put the enemy in great confusion, by causing them to panic, because they had no idea that he was near them.

- **Second**, that he would not fall short of the honor that God had given him, that the enemy would be conquered the next day.

(b) Success was realized by Israel (v. 8)

(1) The enemy was routed and they were fleeing for their lives!!

- As it was with the southern coalition, the pendulum changed! The condition altered! The great expectations were now in the reverse, the formidable had now become fearful, confused and uncertain of what was next . . . except the certainty of doom!!
- From a numerical point of view these kings should have won the battle!
 - They had full knowledge and were acquainted with the territory.
 - They had their supplies near at hand.
 - They had the most advanced equipment.
 - They were well trained and accustomed to war.
 - **The Israelites had all the odds against them except that Jehovah God was with them!!**
- **The enemy that was so many, so well equipped, well trained and fully assured of victory were now fleeing for their lives!!**

(2) God had given Israel the honor and advantage of a complete victory!!

- Israel smote the enemy and chased them in the several ways they fled (v. 8). Some fled toward Zidon (way to the coast) and some fled towards Mizpeh on the east; however, wherever they fled, they were pursued.
- Israel chased and smote them until no survivors were left (v. 8b).
 - The enemy was completely destroyed and total victory was realized by Israel!!
 - The resistance of the enemy was now broken!!
- **The key note to report is that “the LORD delivered the coalition forces into the hand of Israel!”**
- **Deut. 28:7 Amplified Bible**
- “The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.”

(c) **Subservience strongly exemplified by Joshua**

It was a norm for Joshua to willingly obey and without questions.

(1) In this account we have seen Joshua obeying the LORD . . . in the command to cripple the horses and burn the chariots (Josh. 11:6, 9).

(2) Joshua obeyed the orders to cripple the horses and destroy the chariots is exemplary in several ways:

- It exemplifies his subjection to the divine will as one under authority, that he must do as he is commanded.
- It exemplifies his self-denial and submitting his own abilities and inclination in compliance with God’s command.

- It exemplifies his confidence in the power of God available to Israel which enabled them to reject the chariots and horses in which others trust (Psa. 20:7; 33:17).
 - It exemplifies his care to keep up and to maintain in the people unshakeable confidence in God, which means removing from them any means of temptation and defilement or anything that distracts them from wholly relying on God!!
- (3) Joshua had learned from previous encounters that the most important part of his duty **was to do “as the LORD bade him”** (v. 9).

- Obedience to divine guidance always results in favorable consequences.
- **Obedience is the price of success** and Joshua was thus instructed of its importance.

Josh. 1:8 NKJV

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, **That you shall observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**”

3. Advancing the campaign (Josh. 11:10-14)

(a) Supreme city destroyed (Vv. 10-11)

- (1) The major phase of the northern campaign was now accomplished and Joshua was now focusing capturing of the cities.
- (2) Joshua’s first target was Hazor, the most important fortress in northern Canaan.
 - This significant city-state had apparently been the capital of these kingdoms.
 - Hazor had been the center of the war against Israel, led by its leader King Jabin.
 - The overthrow of Jabin was an outstanding victory in the conquest of Canaan.
 - Hazor’s dominion seemed to have extended over all the north of Canaan under the authority of King Jabin.
 - It is believed that Jabin had escaped the battle and sought refuge in his well-fortified city of Hazor.
 - He thought himself to be safe and the danger of death was now passed; just like the five kings of the southern coalition who sought refuge in a cave (Josh. 10:16).
 - Judgment was finally made and Jabin was executed along with the population of Hazor and the city was burnt to the ground (Josh. 11:10-11).

(3) **The general norm regarding the capture of cities in those days.**

- Victorious invaders usually kept cities intact, moving into them and making them centers of commerce and defense.
- Moses foretold in Deut. 6:10-12 that Israel would occupy cities that they themselves had not built (Deut. 6:10-11).
- Joshua however, burnt Hazor (*As noted above*)
 - As a former capital of northern Canaan, Hazor symbolized the wicked culture that Israel had come to destroy.
 - However, its capture and destruction broke the backbone of the federation north Canaan and weakened the will of the people to resist.
- As we will see below, not all the northern cities were destroyed.

(b) Secondary cities conquered as the campaign continued (v. 12).

(1) After destroying Hazor, Joshua began to capture all the cities and kings of the great north alliance (v. 12).

- All these were royal cities, that is city-states that were ruled over by a king.
- Joshua executed everyone in the cities, both kings and citizens but not all cities were burnt, for Israel was to dwell in great and goodly cities which they had not built (Deut. 6:10-12).

(2) “. . . Joshua take and smote them, with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded” (Josh. 11:12b KJV).

- Why destroy the Canaanites, has been noted several time throughout this series, including this lesson.
- The Canaanites were an evil, brutal, ferocious people, whose “cup of iniquity” was now full (Gen. 15:16).
- The people were beyond repentance, beyond turning to the LORD. They had the opportunity to repent, instead they rejected and rebelled against God.

(c) Spared cities

Josh. 11:13

KJV: “But as for the cities that **stood in their strength**, Israel burned none . . .”

NKJV: “But as for the cities that **stood on their mounds**, Israel burned none of them . . .”

(1) As noted above, while Hazor was burnt but other cities that stood on their “mounds” or “hills” were not burnt.

- The KJV notes: “cities that stood in their own strength. This refers to cities that stood on their own **“mounds”** or **“hills”**.”
- These were **hills** of ruins and accumulated debris, which suggest that ancient settlements were built on old settlements (see Jer. 30:18).

- Archaeological discoveries have proven this fact of settlement being built on other settlements. One example noted:
 - **Tel Megiddo:** Archaeologists have uncovered 26 layers of human occupation or layers of ruins.
 - This is the sight for the final battle referred to as “Armageddon” (Rev. 16:12-16, NB Vv. 14, 16).
 - These sites are spoken of as “hills” because such was the ordinary site chosen for cities in Canaan . . . “city that is set on a **hill**” (Matt. 5:14).
- (2) During the northern campaign, the cities on these hills were not burnt by Israel (Josh. 11:13). They were not burnt so that Israel could occupy and live in them . . . we noted Deut. 6:10-12 earlier. These cities were part of the inheritance of God’s people.
- (d) Spoils of war shared (v. 14)
- (1) As noted in earlier lessons, the spoils of war was collected and distributed among the soldiers (v. 14a).
- (2) We must also note the judgment of God continued to be stressed: “. . . but everyman they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any that breathe” (Josh. 11:14b KJV).
- (3) Matthew Henry refers to Josh. 11:14 as: “Israel rolling in blood and treasure.”
- In the blood of their enemies: *“they smote all the souls . . . neither left they any to breathe.” (. 14b).*
 - In the wealth of their enemies: *“The spoil, and the cattle, they took for a prey to themselves” (v. 14a).*
4. **Addressed as Commanded** (Josh. 11:15)
- (a) A key factor in accomplishing the victory realized by Israel was obedience.
- Josh. 11:15 NKJV**
- “As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.”
- (1) Note the chain of command and the compliance:
The LORD commanded Moses . . . Moses commanded Joshua . . . What God commanded His servant Moses, Joshua did!!
- (2) The emphasis noted here is that Joshua left nothing undone; He did exactly what God commanded!
- He had performed his task as a great soldier.
 - At no time had he violated the command of God.
 - He had been swift to hear and to execute his orders.
 - He had ***“left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses”*** (v. 15).
- (3) The result of such perfect obedience was the reason why Israel prevailed against any opposition!!

- (b) Obedience is the key to victory for God's people.
- (1) The New Testament Joshua assured His followers that if they would **seek first** "the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6 :33) all the necessary things of life would be added to them.
 - (2) Beloved, obedience is as important for all God's people as it was important for Joshua!!
- (c) The following was compiled based on a quote from Life Application Study Bible:
- (1) Joshua carefully obeyed all the instructions given by God.
 - (2) This theme of obedience is repeated frequently in the Book of Joshua, partly because obedience is one aspect of life that each believer can control.
 - We can't always control our understanding because we may not have all the facts.
 - We can't control what other people do or how they treat us.
 - However, we can control our choice to obey God.
 - (3) **Whatever new challenges we may face, the Bible contains relevant instructions that we can choose to ignore or choose to follow.**
1 Sam. 15:22 Amplified Bible
 "Samuel said, Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offering and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

5. Practical Lessons

In Joshua chapter 11, we have a desperate and an all-out effort by the northern alliance against the people of God; their objectives were to prevent Israel from possessing the Promised Land and to destroy them. From this occurrence two important lessons are taught to all believers.

- (a) **First: The desperation of the enemy who mobilize in a last-resort all-out-effort to destroy us.**
- (1) It is an enemy who is fierce, violent, threatening, murderous, cruel, dangerous and vicious. These qualities were very much evident in the northern coalition.
 - (2) Beloved, we may not be involved in the same type of war as it was with the northern coalition and Israel but in essence these characteristics that were evident in the northern coalition are very much evident, in our spiritual enemies, maybe in different form or manner etc., but they do intend to destroy the people and cause of God!!
 - (3) The leader of the northern coalition was King Jabin (Josh. 11:1) and our "arch enemy" is Satan, the old serpent (Gen. 3:1-5 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; 20:2), who has come to destroy (John 10:10). Note the following ... presented without discussion:
 - Satan opposes believers **1 Chron. 21:1**; Job 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 2:18.
 - Satan accuses believers **Rev. 12:10**; Job 1:8-11; Zech. 3:1-2.

- Satan slanders believers **1 Tim. 5:14.**
 - Satan test believers and causes their suffering **Rev. 2:10**; Eph. 6:11-13,16.
 - Etc.
 - Beloved, Satan opposes God’s work, he opposes righteousness **Zech. 3:1**; Matt. 4:3; 13:19. 39.
- (4) I do not have to make a listing of the ways that the enemy seeks to entice and lure us into evil; we do know that sin **MUST** be resisted (**Rom. 6 , NB Vv. 11-14**; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Peter 5:8-9). Beloved, our victory is in Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:18; 4:15).
- (b) **Second: The continuous effort of the enemy to destroy us even it’s his last resort.**
- (1) The devil is always engaged in a last-ditched effort, always on the prowl, because he wants us to stumble and eventually destroy ourselves.
- (2) We should never forget that there is constant warfare waging around us between good and evil, right and wrong!
- The Promised Land was God’s promise to Israel (Gen. 12:1, 7; 13:15; 15:17; 17:18; etc.). Yet the enemy did everything to prevent Them from acquiring the promise made to them by God.
 - Ai was assisted by Bethel to oppose Israel (Josh. 8:17).
 - Then the forces got larger with the formation of the southern coalition (Josh. 10, NB Vv. 1-5) and the northern coalition was the largest (Josh. 11). Through it all, Joshua and his people were not intimidated but remained steadfast and confident **in the LORD!!**
 - Beloved, there is no time to let down our guards!! We can’t, we cannot afford to because Satan is as a **roaring lion** (*present continuous tense*)!! **He is always at work seeking who he may destroy** (1 Peter 5:8).
- (3) The devil is at war because he opposes God’s righteousness (1 John 3:7-10; etc.). (*As we saw in a previous lesson Satan is limited and his doom is certain, even as we have seen with the enemies in these accounts, Book of Joshua; likewise Satan is doomed . . . Rev. 20:7-10 . . . despite all his evil works please remember 1 John 4:4*).
- (4) **Eph. 6:12 NKJV**
 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places.”
- (5) See Matt. 13:19, 38-39; Luke 4:6; John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Cor. 11:14-15; Eph. 2:1-3; etc.

C. Astounding Victory Josh. 11:16-20

Introductory Notes (Josh. 11:16-23)

- (a) These verses present a summary of the conquest of the Promise Land by the Israelites.
 - (1) It should also be noted that the campaign led by Joshua did not focus on the smaller city-states.
 - (2) The smaller cities would be the responsibility of each individual tribe to conquer.
 - (b) Joshua's military campaigns involved only the major city-states.
 - (1) Joshua's accomplishments resulted in defeating the large and powerful armies of northern Canaan and as a result it was not possible for the Canaanites to mobilize massive and powerful armies against Israel.
 - (2) Control was gained over Canaan but it was dependent on the individual tribes to defeat the smaller cities that were scattered throughout the region.
 - (c) As noted, before, Joshua in one of his final addresses cautioned Israel about the remaining Canaanite cities not yet conquered (Josh. 23:11-13).
 - (d) These chapters in Joshua have presented a most vivid account of the spiritual conquest and rest the people of God were blessed with.
- 1. Designated Areas Conquered (Josh. 11:16-17)**
- (a) A large area of Canaan was conquered (Vv. 16-17)
 - (1) As we have seen throughout this series: Joshua was a brilliant military strategist.
 - (2) Note a brief overview of the campaign to conquer Canaan.
 - He had launched his attack across the Jordan River against Jericho and cut straight across the Mediterranean sea, splitting apart the land of Canaan.
 - He then launched his attack against the southern nations and then, as seen in this passage (Josh. 11), against the great northern coalition who had formed against him.
 - (b) The land conquered by Joshua and the Israelites include:
 - (1) The hill country (of Judah).
 - (2) All the south country or Negev.
 - (3) The lowland or Shephelah.
 - (4) Goshen, which was a territory between the hill country of the central mountain range and Negev (This was not the Goshen of Egypt).
 - (5) The western foothills that stretched throughout Canaan or Palestine from north to south, somewhat inland from the coastal plain.
 - (6) The Arabah or the Jordan Valley.
 - (7) All the mountains and valleys, or lowlands of Israel.
 - (8) The southern point of Mt. Halak that lay close to Kadesh-Barnea (Josh. 10:41).
 - (9) The northern part of Baal Gad which lay in the valley of Lebanon and below Mt. Hermon.

*Do not be thrown off with the geographical facts; we are presenting these facts as simple as possible. The important thing is to see the fulfillment of God's promises made to Abraham **God gives conquest and spiritual rest to His people!!***

- (c) Victory Assured!! Victory Realized!! Victory for the People of God!!
- (1) With God's enabling all the major Canaanite kings of the Promised Land were now conquered.
 - (2) The result of such victory is the accomplishment of that which was most essential . . . defeating the major and powerful armies of Canaan.
 - (3) Such victories brought the realization of complete possession of the Promise Land closer to reality.

2. Duration of the war (Josh. 11:18)

- (a) How long it took to conquer the cities of Canaan?

There are two opinions . . .

- (1) The campaign took seven years.

- In Josh 14:7 we note Caleb was **40 years old** when the spies were sent to survey Canaan (Num. 13:1-14:12).
- In Deut. 2:14 it is noted that the wilderness wandering lasted **38 years**.
- Caleb was therefore **78 years old** when Israel began marching to conquer Canaan.
- In Josh. 14:10, actually, when the conquest of Canaan was completed Caleb was **85 years old**.
- NOTE: at the start of the campaign he was **78 years old**; at the close he was **85 years old** which makes the period of the military campaign 7 years.

- (2) Why some say the campaign took 5 years and not 7 years.

- As noted above Deut. 2:14 notes that the wilderness wandering took **38 years**.
- However, other references note that the wilderness wandering took **40 years** (Num. 32:13; Deut. 1:3) . . . this is a difference of two years.
- With this latter calculation the military campaign has been determined to have taken 5 years. Please Note:
 - Caleb **40 years old** when the spies were sent out (Josh. 14:7)
 - The wilderness wandering lasted **40 years** (Num. 32:13; Deut. 1:3)
 - At the end of the military campaign Caleb was **85 years old** (Josh. 14:10)
 - It means that Caleb was **80 years old** when the campaign began and he was **85 years old** at the close . . . therefore it was calculated that it took **5 years** to complete the campaign to conquer Canaan.

*This information is presented for your information . . . personally, I am not distracted in this minor difference which most likely came from recording the facts. God did promise Abraham the land and such promise was fully realized!!! **To God Be The Glory!!!***

(b) Long but beneficial war!

- (1) Due to this long war the Israelite soldiers advanced their skills and became more experienced in warfare.
- (2) They experienced repeated instances of God's power and goodness obtained in each victory God gave them.
- (3) Those long years of constant war demanded patience, courage, and perseverance; which are all good traits for those in service to the glory of God.
- (4) Workers of God must always remember that the enemy does not submit without a struggle but like Paul we must fight the good fight, finish our course and keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7).
- (5) This unique experience is not an overnight episode, our journey with God is a life-long process!!
 - The changes we desire may take time to be realized.
 - It is easy to grow impatient with God and feel like giving up hope because things are moving slowly.
 - When we are close to a situation, it is difficult to see progress.
 - But when we look back, we can see that God has never stopped working!
- (6) Whether our warfare is difficult, long, etc. . . . we must press on!!

Press along saints, press along
 In God's own way
 Press along saints, press along
 In God's own way
 For persecution you must bear
 Trials and crosses in our way.

But the hotter the battle
 The sweeter the victory
 The hotter the battle
 The sweeter the victory.

3. **Defiance** (Josh. 11:19-20)

(a) **Hardened Hearts** Josh. (11:19-20)

- (1) The Canaanites were not ignorant of the facts about the true and living God.
 - They heard about the wonders God wrought on behalf of His people even before Israel entered Canaan, note the testimony of Rahab (Josh. 2:9-11).

- The awareness and fear of God continued to permeate all the Canaanite cities (Josh. 6:1; 9:1-2 and 3-37; 10:1-5; 11:1-5).
 - Of all the cities in Canaan only the Gibeonites sought peace with Israel (Josh. 9:3-27) and from Jericho Rahab and her family (Josh 1:12-14).
- (2) It is obvious that the Canaanites were obstinate people; despite all that they heard and witnessed, none of those things moved them, they had absolutely no desire to make peace with Israel.
- **The grim reality is: those that are determined to remain foolish and secure and taking absolutely no heed to divine warnings are already marked for destruction.**
 - One of the major reasons for a situation like this where obstinacy prevails despite the imminent dangers, is a lack of humility which eventually results in doom.
 - **Prov. 18:12 ESV**
 “Before destruction, a man’s heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.”
 - See also Prov. 3:34; 16:18-19; 29:23; Matt. 23:12.
- (3) We saw a similar situation as it related to Pharaoh (Ex. 4:21)
- The hardened heart, as noted here, was not an act of God against Pharaoh’s will but in accordance with it.
 - It was Pharaoh’s desire to harden his heart, note carefully: Ex. 3:19; 7:14, 22; 8:15; 9:34.
 - Pharaoh was considered to be the incarnation of the supreme God.
 - Therefore he would be able to do anything he wanted to do.
 - As a god he was above all and would not be subjected to anyone.
 Pharaoh’s first response was: “Who is the LORD that I should obey Him . . .” (Ex. 5:2). Eventually, he and all of Egypt would know who is the only true and living God!!
 - Likewise in our choices, God only confirms for us the decisions that we have made . . . no need to blame God!
 - As it was with Pharaoh, he would never voluntarily allow the people of Israel to go free!!
 - He would not acknowledge nor bow to the desire of some other god! In fact even when Pharaoh was compelled to release Israel, his obstinacy motivated him to pursue and try to return the Israelites to Egypt (Ex. 14).
- (4) As it was with Pharaoh, so it was with the Canaanites, their minds were made up not to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God (1 Peter 5:6).
- God did not personally/intentionally hardened the hearts of the Canaanites . . . the blame for their destruction cannot be lessened.

- “. . . the LORD to harden their hearts ...” (Josh. 11:20a)
 - It does not mean that God kept back the Canaanites from being saved, but kept them from making peace with evil, unrepentant hearts that would in time corrupt God’s people.
 - As we saw before Rahab and the Gibeonites showed that the Canaanites could have been saved if they had been willing to repent.
 - But as we have seen, Scriptures makes it abundantly clear, over the centuries the Canaanites had given themselves over to evil, to total rejection of God.
 - The result of such obstinacy and continued outright rejection of God is the hardening of their hearts! Their hearts became harder and harder and they became more and more stubborn.
 - Their hearts grew beyond repentance, beyond any hope of repentance.
 - Their “cup of iniquity” had been filled to the brim, beyond any hope of repentance.
 - They had made their choice and God gave them up to their evil doing (See Rom. 1:24-25).
 - In this sense, God allows the hard hearts of the already wicked Canaanites to run its course unrestrained.
- (5) These Canaanites had made up minds, they resolved stubbornly to make war with Israel and that decision would not be altered in any way.
- (6) **Based on the Canaanites defiance, note two Practical Cautionary Lessons:**
- There may come a time when a person or nation becomes so wicked that mercy is withdrawn and judgment is inevitable (Heb. 10:26-31)
 - **The admonition is ... guard your choices: If you continue in the wrong choice long enough, you may well come to the point where you lose your capacity to choose another.**
- (b) Heedlessness.
- Listing a few references noting why salvation is neglected. Basically a listing without discussion.*
- (1) Because of **Impenitence** . . . there is no regret or remorse (**Ezek. 33:9**).
 - (2) Because of **Absorption in Business** . . . focus taken up with things but no time for God (**Luke 14:18**).
 - (3) Because of **Procrastination** . . . simply just putting off for a more convenient day (**Acts 24:25**).
 - (4) Because of **Insensitivity** . . . too many lack the need to be aware of the importance of the gospel . . . *they see but do not perceive* **Acts 28:26-27**.
 - (5) The awful fact such is that such neglect ends in disaster, CAUTION: **Perilous If Persisted In ... Heb. 2:3; 12:25.**

(c) Heeding the warning is mandatory!!

This is a brief review and reinforcing some points that have been noted above.

- (1) Reference (Josh. 11:1-12:24) has been made of people who had sinned for ages against the light of conscience and God.
- (2) God gave them up to vain confidence, pride, stubbornness, hostility and resentment.
 - As a result their hearts were hardened.
 - Consequently, they brought upon themselves righteous vengeance and their own destruction (Deut. 2:30; Judg. 14:4; 1 Sam. 2:25; 1 Kings 12:15; 2 Chron. 25:16, 20).
- (3) The person who sins against light “shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” (Prov. 29:1KJV).
- (4) Caution! Hardness of heart leads to disaster!!
 - **Rom. 2:5**
 - **KJV:** “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart, treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”
 - **Amplified Bible:** “But by your callous stubbornness and impenitence of heart you are storing up wrath and indignation for yourself on the day of wrath and indignation, when God’s righteous judgment (just doom) will be revealed.”
 - See also Psa. 95:8; Prov. 28:14; Heb. 3:13.

D. Anakims Destroyed Josh. 11:21-23**1. Giants faced and overcome** (Josh. 11:21-22)

(a) Who were the Anakims? (Briefly Noted).

- (1) The name “Anakim” is said to mean “long necked,” i.e. “tall.” The Hebrews thought they were descendants of the Nephilim, a powerful race who dominated the pre-Flood world (Gen. 6:4; Num 13:33).
- (2) Anakims were described as a race of giant’s and warlike people (Deut. 2:10, 21; 9:2), according to the Old Testament.
- (3) They lived in the southern part of the land of Canaan, near Hebron (Josh. 15:13) before the arrival of the Israelites.

(b) **Facing the giants!!**

(1) Paralyzing fear produced by the Anakims

- The Anakims formidable appearance, as described by the twelve spies sent to search Canaan, filled the Israelites with terror (Num. 13:31-14:12)
- The negative attitude that was produced as a result of the spies’ report, resulted in Israel displaying unbelief and rebellion against God’s will, which resulted in the wilderness wandering for forty years (Num. 32:6-13).

- The awful tragedy of such unbelief and fear. (Briefly Noted)
 - Instead of an eleven days journey Israel took 40 years to arrive at the border of Canaan (Deut. 1:2-3; Num. 32:13).
 - An entire generation perished during the wilderness wandering, except Joshua and Caleb (Num. 32:10-12)
 - Think of all that was neglected during those years of wandering, for example: a generation not circumcised, the Passover not celebrated, the Feast of Unleavened Bread not celebrated, etc.

(2) Prepared by God!!

- As noted above, the Israelites greatly feared the Anakims and were reluctant to even try to conquer Canaan, at least the generation that left Egypt (Num. 13:27;14:12).
- Now (Josh. 11) Israel had to face that which the previous generation greatly feared. This new generation were committed to and wholeheartedly believed in the God they served!!
- **The Anakims were no match for an army that was blessed and directed by the true and living God!!**
 - The Anakims lived in the mountains of Judah and Israel but their height, nor their fortified cities or caves, nor anything else could secure them from the sword of Joshua.
 - The sons of Anak (the forefather of the Anakims) would not terrorize the people of God, Israel, they would not be intimidated by them!!
 - **Giants are dwarfs to Omnipotence, yet the struggle with the Anakims were reserved for the latter war.**
 - Joshua had known for a long while that these giants were there.
 - He had known they were strong and well-fortified.
 - He had seen how these men could inspire fear.
 - **But he had long proclaimed that “their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not” (Num. 14:9).**
- God knows how to manage the battles in our life.
 - Israel at this point (Josh. 11:21-22) had gone through many wars and were now experts in warfare and had more experience of the power and goodness of God.
 - God was in control, guiding, giving them victories and they were aware of it. This time Israel did not let fear of the giants prevented them from engaging in battle and claiming the land God had promised.

(3) Power and presence of God!!

- Israel was assured that God would fight for them (Ex. 14:14; Deut. 20:1-4; 2 Sam. 5:24; etc.)
- The Anakims opposed God and His people and as a result would ultimately be destroyed.

- Joshua totally destroyed the Anakims within the Promised Land.
 - Some found refuge in the Philistine cities of Gaza, Gath and Ashdod (Josh. 11:22).
 - The Anakims remained only in those cities occupied by the Philistines.
 - The Philistine giant, Goliath, who David slew (1 Sam. 17, NB Vv. 4, 45-54) came from the city of Gath (1 Sam. 17:4 ; Josh. 11:22).
 - David also had other encounter with Philistine giants (2 Sam. 21:15-22).
- Joshua totally destroyed the Anakims within the Promised Land.
 - There were no giants, **no large enemies** left to combat God’s people within the Promised Land.
 - There were giants, huge enemies, only in other nations outside the Promised Land.
 - As noted, before, the remaining small cities within the Promised Land that were yet to be conquered, were the responsibility of each tribe.

2. God’ gracious blessing!! The Promised Land!!

(a) Precepts of God were faithfully adhered to.

(1) **All** the commands God had given to Moses relating to the conquest of Canaan were obeyed by the people . . . at least while Joshua lived.

- Note how solemnly this obedience was mentioned:

Josh. 11:15 ESV

“Just as the LORD had commanded Moses His servant, so Moses command Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commended Moses.”

- Their unswerving loyalty and obedience.
 - He left nothing undone . . . he removed nothing from all guidelines given!
 - They didn’t adjust or make anything void, nothing was deleted!
- That obedience continued all the way through Joshua’s leadership ... from start to finish!!

Josh. 11:23a ESV

“So Joshua took the whole land, **according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. . . .**”

(2) Joshua was himself a great commander, and yet one of the most outstanding thing about him was his obedience (Josh. 11:23a).

- One of the great practical lessons from Joshua’s life is:
“Those that rule others at their will must themselves be ruled by divine will; then their power is indeed their honor, and not otherwise.”
 (Matthew Henry)
- The devoted obedience for which Joshua was commended with great respects relates to the command to destroy the Canaanites and break down their altars and burn their images (**Deut. 7:2-5**; Ex. 23:24; 34:13).

(3) Joshua seemed to find pleasure and satisfaction reflecting on his obedience to the commands of God, in all this war than all the gains and triumphs with which he was enriched and advanced.

(b) Promises come to fruition

Josh. 11:23b Amplified Bible

“. . . and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their allotments by tribes. And the land had rest from war.”

(1) This verse (Josh. 11:23) summarizes the Book of Joshua; chapter 12 follows with a brief review of the conquests of Moses and Joshua.

(2) God did promise Israel:

- That He would drive out the occupying nations of the Promised Land (Ex. 33:2; 34:11).
- That He would “bring them down” (Deut. 9:3).
- **And now it was done! There failed not one word of the promise!!**

(3) At long last, that for which the people of God had yearned so long was theirs.

- They were now to receive their inheritance, the wonderful inheritance of the Promised Land!!
- They were now to experience the promised rest for which they so longed and hoped for!!
- Josh. 11:23 is not only a summary of the Book of Joshua but also serves as a simple statement that introduces what is to follow in the rest of the great Book of Joshua: the actual distribution of the inheritance of the Promised Land.

(4) Now, at long last—the Israelites had conquered all the enemies who were trying to keep them out of the Promise Land.

- The Promised Land was theirs!!
- The promise of God was now to be experienced!
- The Promised Land was theirs and they were to know the promised rest of God!!
 - They were now to experience rest from all struggle, restlessness, deprivation, suffering, conflict and warfare.
 - This is the meaning of this great moment in the history of the Israelites, God’s dear people.

E. Acquired East of Jordan Josh. 12:1-6

Conquered by Moses . . . East of Jordan

1. Introduction (Josh. 12:1-6)

(a) This review of the victories achieved east of Jordan, serves as an introduction to the distribution of the land.

(b) The emphasis placed on names carries a message . . . observe mention was not made solely on places but names of individuals: “Sihon of the Amorites” or “Og king of Bashan”, “Moses”, etc.

- (1) The individuals may not be personally known, however, listing names shows that God's people were interested in persons—not just in land.
- (2) Human life was not to be cut off and completely forgotten.
 - Those persons who lived as a sacred trust from God would be remembered for their contributions they had made towards the advancement of His interests.
 - The people who abused this trust would find their names listed among those who lived and lost.

2. **Description of this conquered country**

- (a) The great conquest of East Jordan was under Moses' Leadership.
 - (1) The territory of East Jordan stretched from Aron Gorge in the south all the way up to Mount Hermon in the north. The territory also included all the eastern plain of Arabah, that is all the land east of the Jordan valley.
 - (2) Moses in his account also described this area, for example see Deut. 2:36; and 3:4.
- (b) The land east of the Jordan was ruled by two men.
 - (1) **First** of these was Sihon king of the Amorites (Josh. 12:2-3).
 - He had refused to give Israel permission to pass through his territory on their way to the Jordan (Num. 21:21-23).
 - After the resulting defeat, the land between Arnon and Jabbok rivers became Israel's possession (Num. 21:24; Deut. 1:4-7).
 - (2) **Second**, there was King Og of Bashan (Josh. 12:4-5).
 - It is believed that King Og came from the giant race of Rephaim (Deut. 3:11).
 - The importance of these victories is reflected in the references made to them in biblical history (1 Kings 4:19; Neh. 9:22; Psa. 135:11; 136:19-20)
 - Israel was fully aware of the facts that these achievements were all God-given.

3. **Distribution of this country (East Jordan)**

- (a) The conquest of East Jordan had been conducted under the leadership of Moses, the servant of the LORD.
- (b) At the request of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh, the land was divided (Num. 32)

F. **Acquired West of Jordan Josh. 12:7-24**

Conquest by Joshua

1. **The limits of the country he conquered.**

- (a) Joshua displayed brilliant military strategy in the way he went about conquering Canaan.
- (b) The conquered land.
 - (1) First, he captured the well-fortified Jericho to gain a foothold in Canaan and to demonstrate the awesome might of the God of Israel. (*Central Campaign*)

- (2) Then he gained the hill country around Bethel and Gibeon. (*Central Campaign*)
 - (3) From there he subdued towns in the lowlands. (*Southern Campaign*)
 - (4) Then his army conquered the important cities in the north, such as Hazor. (*Northern Campaign*)
 - (c) **Overall accomplishment** (*East and West of Jordan River*)
 - (1) In all, Israel conquered land both east (Moses' leadership) Josh. 12:1-6 and west (Joshua's leadership) Josh. 12:7-24; of the Jordan River, from Mount Hermon in the north to beyond the Negev to Mount Halak in the south.
 - (2) Thirty-one kings and their cities had been defeated.
 - (3) The Israelites had overpowered the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. As noted before other small cities remained yet to be conquered but that was the responsibility of each Israelite tribe.
2. **Some special areas of interest** (*Briefly Noted*)
- (a) Various kinds of land within Canaan.
 - (1) There were various kinds of land within Canaan which contributed both to its pleasantness and its fruitfulness.
 - (2) There were mountains not rough, rocky, and barren, which are frightful to the traveler and useless to the inhabitants, but instead they were fruitful hills, such that guarantee precious things, which charmed spectators' eyes and filled the owners' hands.
 - (3) The valleys were not mossy and swampy but covered with corn (Psa. 65:13) ("*corn*" or "*grains*").
 - (4) There were plains and springs to water them; and even in that rich land there were wilderness too, or forests, which were not so thickly inhabited as other parts, yet had towns and houses in them.
 - (b) There were a variety of nations occupying Canaan . . . noted above, see also Gen. 10:15-18; etc.
 - (c) Joshua 12 closes with a list of kings that were conquered and subdued by the sword of Israel in their own field and some in their own cities . . . thirty-one in all.
 - (d) Finally, allow me to note **three important truths that are relevant to this account of Israel occupying Canaan:**
 - (1) Those who were entering Canaan were uniquely God's people, and they were entering into that which had been promised to them (Gen. 15:18-21; Ex. 6:8; Josh. 1:13; Josh. 21:43-45; etc.).
 - (2) The eradication of the enemy had long been promised (Gen. 15:13-21; Ex. 23:27-32; Deut. 7:1-6; etc.)
 - (3) God took an active part in these conquest (Ex. 14:14; 23:27; Deut. 2:25; Josh. 10:10-11; etc.).

Closing Thoughts

God's promise was to deliver Israel from slavery and bring them unto a good land and a large land. The term "**land of milk and honey**" has been used twenty times in the Bible and **in essence refers to a land rich and nurturing beyond imagination.**

The assurance given to Moses by God**Ex. 3:8 ESV**

"And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites." (*Note also v. 17*).

The land was promised to Abraham: Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 15:7, 18; 17:8; etc.

Some references to "Land of Milk and Honey": Ex. 13:5; 33:3; Lev. 20:24; Num. 13:27; 14:8; Deut. 6:3; 26:15; Josh. 5:6; etc.

Joshua was called to lead Israel to possess the Promised Land

Josh. 1:2 ESV

"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan and all the people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel."

(*Note also Vv. 3-6*)

Promises made, promises fulfilled**Josh. 12:23 Amplified Bible**

"So Joshua took the whole land, according to ALL the Lord had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their allotments by tribes. And the land had rest from war."

As a reminder the distribution of the Promised Land was not yet done at this time which will be covered in succeeding chapters.

The hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
 As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.
 "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
 "Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!
 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

LESSON 10 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Summarize Joshua 10 in a few sentences.

2. Complete by choosing the correct answer:
“We can find the one sure route to freedom by _____
_____. God can set you free to be the person He
created you to be.”
(a) faithfully attending each Sunday service.
(b) singing robustly and with excitement
(c) wholeheartedly serving God the Creator
(d) being the most impressive member

3. “The God of Battles,” in what ways was this literally demonstrated in the battle with Israel and the southern coalition (Josh. 10)?

4. The statement below refers to the five kings of the southern coalition forces who sought refuge in a cave (Josh. 10:16-19, 22-27). **Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:**

“That which they thought would have been their shelter from all harm was made their prison first _____.”

- (a) and then were pardoned
- (b) and then sent home
- (c) and then ran away
- (d) and then their grave

5. (a) Despite all the atrocities, devastations, and all other ills of military wars, what is regarded as even more serious warfare being waged against humanity? (b) Why is it regarded to be so destructive?

6. Complete the following:

“If evil (a) _____ out over the (b) _____ of a human being, that (c) _____ being is (d) _____ to spend (e) _____ out of the (f) _____ of God. He will never be (g) _____ by God, not (h) _____ to live in God’s presence.”

7. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“Thus the _____ for souls of people is the most critical battle that is being fought every day.”

- (a) fight for human rights
- (b) spiritual warfare being waged
- (c) compromise ignored but needed
- (d) struggle liberal Christians waged

8. II Cor. 4:4 was quoted in our lesson (Page 5); briefly explain what is taught in this verse.

9. In what way did the declaration of war by the northern coalition forces against Israel was regarded as a final effort; what they intended to accomplish?

10. Who was head of the northern coalition forces and what are some main features of his city?

11. Complete the following:

“Thus are the children of this (a) _____ more (b) _____, and therein wiser, than the children of (c) _____. The (d) _____ of the church’s (e) _____ should (f) _____ the church’s friends out of their (g) _____ and divisions, and (h) _____ them to be one.” *(Quote: Matthew Henry)*

12. What was the response to King Jabin’s call for the northern cities of Canaan to join in unity to destroy the Israelites?

13. What were the four areas of advantages the northern coalition had over Israel in going into battle?

14. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

Jabin seemed to have all the advantages over Joshua in winning the battle except for this main factor. **We are applying this to Christian warfare!!:**

“ _____ can be victorious regardless of the odds.” **(This is applicable to all Christians!)**

- (a) Those who honor God
- (b) Those who are church member
- (c) Those who look sanctimonious
- (d) The half-hearted professing believers

15. Joshua was not only encouraged to be courageous (Josh. 1:6; etc.) but he was courageous (Josh. 10:25; etc.). Why was it necessary for God to once more encourage him to be courageous as noted in Josh. 11:6?

16. When God assured Joshua of victory over the northern coalition, what special instructions followed (Josh. 11:6)?

17. Why were the Israelites not allowed to keep the horses and chariots left by the defeated northern alliance forces?

18. Complete by choosing the correct answer (*A statement based on size, etc. of Israel's army in comparison to the northern coalition forces*):

"The Israelites had _____
except that Jehovah God was with them!!"

- (a) relaxed and neglected the demands
- (b) all the odds against them
- (c) overlooked their fierce powerful enemy
- (d) hidden themselves fearing the enemy

19. In what ways were Joshua's obedience to cripple the horses and burn the chariots of the enemy is exemplary?

20. As exemplified by Joshua, what two lessons were taught by his unflinching obedience to God's directives?

21. In regards to captured cities during the times of the Old Testament: (a) what was the norm of victorious invaders in regards to cities captured? (b) Why did Israel burnt Hazor while other cities were not burnt?

22. Briefly explain this statement: "Obedience is one aspect of life that each believer can control."

23. Match the statements on the left with the correct reference on the right

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCES	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Satan opposes believers		1 Tim. 5:14
Satan accuses believers		Zech. 3:1
Satan slanders believers		Rev. 2:10
Satan test believers and causes their suffering		Rev. 12:10
Satan opposes God’s work, he opposes righteousness		1 Chron. 21:1

24. Briefly explain the statement: “. . . the LORD hardened their hearts . . .” (Josh. 11:20a)

25. Briefly explain who were the Anakims (Josh. 11:21-23).

26. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer:

“Joshua obliterated ALL giants, none remained anywhere else.:

27. How many kings controlled the area east of Jordan before it was conquered by Israel; briefly note some known facts about these men?

28. Briefly describe (a) the various lands (b) the valleys (c) the plains (d) the plains within the Promised Land.

29. In regards to the conquest and occupation of Canaan by Israel, what three important truths were noted in our lesson?

30. In regards to the statement, “land of milk and honey” (a) briefly explain what it means. (b) Give five references relating to this statement. (c) To whom was the promise originally made . . . give references?
