

Joshua 10-12

Good evening Church, it is wonderful to be here with you all tonight as we continue our study of the Old Testament.

We will be in Joshua Chapter 10 to start, and we will get through chapter 12.

Let's pray before we get into it.

Now, chapter 9-12 can be seen as a unit.

We are dealing now with the conquest of Canaan, chapter 13 will be the start of the distribution of the conquered land.

Now, God's strategy for Joshua was to divide the Promise Land in half, and shoot straight across toward the Mediterranean Sea, and once the land was divided, God would have them first conquer what one commentator called the Dixie of the Promise Land.

And after Joshua blitzed the South, and crippled the armies there, he would then push north.

A divide and conquer strategy.

Now, something to consider here, when we get to Judges, the people will come short from taking their full inheritance.

But here in Joshua, we see the armies will go the span of Canaan.

Understand, Joshua's objective is to cripple the main fighting forces of the land.

But it will be up to the individual tribes to go into each of their possessions and take the pockets of resistance left in the cities and towns.

And many of the tribes will come very short of their duty to purge their territory.

So Joshua's conquest was not a final taking, often we read he takes the army back to Gilgal, and we do not read of him stationing troops.

His first strike was a crippling strike, and the individual tribes would be responsible for the final blow before they settled.

Now, in Joshua 9, with the Gibeonites, we saw Israel once again had to learn a very difficult lesson.

There we saw the deception of the Gibeonites, as the ambitious leaders of Israel forgot to seek God's wisdom, and they entered into a treaty with the Gibeonites.

Now Gibeon was pretty much the next city in the path of Joshua's powerful army.

I had a map passed out of the conquest of Canaan, you can use it throughout the study tonight, and you can see after Jericho and Ai were defeated, that Gibeon was next.

Please understand the mistake of Israel, is a mistake we often make in the Church today.

They thought they could move and do whatever they wanted and God would be for them.

They thought God was on their side.

But remember when Joshua met with the true commander of the Lord's Army, Joshua asked Him if He was for Israel or their enemies.

And the reply was **Josh 5:12 "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."**

Understand God was not on Israel's side, but if they would be on His side, and obey Him, they were assured victory.

Many Christian's today, have this belief that their lives are the center of God's universe.

They believe God is for them, so whatever they do, God will bless.

But please understand as Israel had to learn, we must be on God's side, and then His promises are attributed to us.

Jesus even modeled this for us, as we discussed on Sunday, He never moved out of sync with the Father's will for His life.

Jesus explained in **John 8:28-29**

I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

Understand, we too must be about God's business, we must earnestly seek to be on God's side, and then and only then can we expect the blessing of God.

Understand what this means, this means we don't make our decisions in life based on how they will benefit us, but how they will bring Glory to God.

You must see the deception and the difference between biblical doctrine and the modern doctrine that God blesses my life however I live.

God's blessings come through obedience.

Joshua and the leaders of Israel assumed upon God's blessing and they stepped out of God's will, and made a covenant with Gibeon.

They were found prayerless and they were presumptuous.

Understand many men have presumed God was for their cause, but this was only presumption, even the wicked Third Reich of Nazi Germany had as a slogan "Gott Mit Uns" meaning "God with us."

I cannot say that God was for that wicked regime.

Or America's Civil war, both sides were convinced that God was for their cause, and both touted a biblical Christianity.

But one leader had the correct understanding, Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/abraham_lincoln_388944

Now, may we seek to be on God's side, that is the only right place to be.

And in chapters 10-12, Joshua and Israel will be on God's side, they will learn from their mistakes, and will now walk in sync with Yahweh, instead of ahead of Him.

And when we walk with God, nothing is impossible, as His resources are out of this world literally, as we will see tonight, He is a God of the supernatural, and a God of miracles.

The Sun Stands Still

10:1 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it — as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king — and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, 2 that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were

mighty. 3 Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel." 5 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

Now if you look at your map, you will see why the Adoni-Zedek was concerned.

Gibeon was centrally located, and a mighty city, a royal city with a known army of might men.

They had surrendered, and perhaps they were a former ally of Adoni-Zedek.

With this city under the dominion of Israel, this means that Joshua now controlled the central plateau of Canaan.

Joshua cut through the middle of the land, and it sent shock waves through the southern kingdoms.

A confederacy of 5 kings come together and mobilize against this threat.

They gathered together before Gibeon and sieged the royal city.

These kings would usually be rivals, but they are forced to unify for this threat coming through their land.

Now Joshua will hear of the advance against his new allies.

Joshua perhaps could let the Gibeonites fight alone, and be rid of the Gibeonites, but we will see this man of God will keep his word, even if it was a mistake, Joshua will honor and own up to his word.

Notice the easy way out is not the right way.

We read next, the Gibeonites slip messengers through the enemy lines.

6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

Joshua whose name means "Jehovah is salvation" was responsible for saving only one people group in his entire career, and it is the Gibeonites.

These foreigners call to Joshua for salvation.

And Joshua responds...

7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua

therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. 10 So the Lord routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

Now, we see here Joshua and Israel are now on God's side, they are walking in sync with His will for them.

And understand this, that because we are on God's side does not mean there will not be opposition.

In fact, we see here a mighty force was gathered to fight Joshua.

Understand that when we give our lives over to the Lord, we will be instantly in the midst of a great battle.

It is interesting that these kings that should be enemies would gather in unity against God and His people.

This still happens today, if you look at the groups that come against the church most vehemently, the progressives, they bring Islam on the same side as those who are caught up in sexual sin.

And those groups come together and link arms and make known their opposition to the church of Jesus Christ.

Yet, in reality, the religion that the sexually perverted person are linked arms with, in its truest form will not think twice to kill a sexual deviant or homosexual.

But we see Truth always brings together the most unlikely allies.

Now, when we are on God's side, again as we discussed Sunday, we will be now working against the prince of this world, and we will be opposed to his agenda, and there will be opposition and what the New Testament depicts as spiritual warfare.

But although we can expect opposition when we are on God's side.

We can also count on the promises of God.

God keeps His covenants, He is true to His word.

Notice here God has Joshua do something that would give the enemy the tactical advantage.

He has Joshua march all night, and it says they ascended, they marched up hill, what would usually take about 3 days at a normal pace, well, in the cover of night, Joshua does this in a matter of hours.

They climb more than 4,000 feet to meet the enemy, and God once again, creates a scenario that He alone can get credit for.

Joshua and the people of God would be exhausted after this trek and climb.

But here we will see, when we are on God's side, He is the true Warrior.

And God, instead of having Joshua conquer each Kingdom one at a time, will take care of five enemy armies at once.

He fights their battle with them.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Joshua is called according to God's purposes, and they are given the upper hand, because the enemy had no idea the Hebrews would march all night, and they arrive as it says in verse 9 and came upon them suddenly.

But notice verse 10, who routes the enemy, it is the Lord.

And Joshua's exhausted army is able to chase their fleeing enemies south.

But notice too when we are on God's side we can expect the miraculous hand of God to fulfill His promises.

God dispatched His smart missiles, hail rained down upon the five kingdoms.

And more died from the supernatural hand of God than the weary Jewish soldiers.

Church, understand the God of the Old Testament is the same God we worship today, and today, He is a God of miracles, and the supernatural.

He only asks of us, obedience.

And sometimes He has us marching up hill, at an exhausting pace, and it seems like defeat is eminent, because we cannot march another step.

But please understand God brings us to these points of total self-depravity to show His mighty hand.

He is still a God of miracles today.

I want to talk a moment to you who are serving in ministry, and you are exhausted.

Maybe thoughts of turning back, or giving up have crossed your mind, the uphill and pace are seemingly too much to bear.

Learn here from the army of Israel, and obey, keep pressing on, keep moving forward, the battle up ahead may seem wearisome, but God will be sure to bring about the victory.

Please understand He is still a God of miracles.

We are told in **Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

Keep pressing on, and the promises of God will come through and there will be fruit.

You know every now and then, I come across the religious prude who does not believe that God is a God of miracles or the supernatural any longer.

But when you take the miraculous out of our faith all you have is religion.

And man's religion is a drag and a burden, it kills hope.

But when God is seen in the light of scriptures, and the miraculous is on the table, because He is a God of the spectacular, there is hope in any situation.

Keep pressing on, keep believing, keep marching, we are promised fruit, godly fruit if we keep moving, and do not grow weary.

Understand a soldier's armor only protects the front, if you quit, and turn from the battle, you will be exposed to the enemy.

Jess and I were talking about it last night, we have seen it hundreds of times.

When a person disengages from the battle, for a season, it does not take long as they are turned from the battle, that they find themselves fully overwhelmed by the enemy.

Press in to the battle, and you will see a God of miracles give you His strength, and you will see impossible situations made possible.

All to His glory, when you are on His side, victory is assured.

Don't ask Him to bless your carefully laid plans, join in His plan for your life.

Joshua's weary army here is emboldened by the miraculous, and they chase the enemy for miles, watching their God strike them down with hail.

And if this was not spectacular enough, we will read of one last miraculous event in the conquest of Canaan.

Joshua's army is revitalized in watching God's mighty hand, they need more time to fight!

Understand, church when you press on, you will see God act, and He will give you the strength, as long as there is breath in your lungs, He has a plan for your life.

Keep moving, we are told in scripture, that when we are on Jesus' side, working within His will for our lives, that we are given a special privilege in prayer.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

When we are on God's side, our prayers are aligned with His will, and we are promised God will answer.

Look at Joshua now, that he is in sync with God...

12 Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel:

"Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

15 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Many people have a problem with this scene, this would be impossible they suggest.

Many scientific guesses have been given on how God could halt the universe in such a way, that daylight or nighttime could be extended.

There are arguments even on if Joshua was keeping the cover of the night by keeping the moon in its place, or if he was asking for daylight.

Now, some have suggested God slowed the earth's rotation, or He tilted the earth's axis, or some even suggest He simply reflected the light of the sun as it went around the earth.

Some even suggest maybe it was God's glory itself that kept the light shining throughout the battle.

I am not sure what happened here, but the result is clear, the sun seemed to stay in the sky until Joshua and the warriors of Israel completed the victory.

It is not the 'how' that concerns me here.

If you can believe **Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

Then the rest of the Bible should be easy to believe.

But what stands out to me here, is the possibilities that can come to a group of people when they are wholly joined to God's will.

Even the natural order of the universe can be altered if a group of people can be completely joined to God's purposes.

Jesus promised us **Matt 17:20**

I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Understand when we can see through this concept that we believe we are the center of the universe, and we can see the bigger picture past our own selfish desires, God's plan and will become evident to us.

When we do away with praying "God bless me," to asking how we can bless God, He will present

opportunities to join Him in His work, and it is when we join in His Work, we see the blessings abound.

Joshua, with this last miracle here is not asking God to keep raining hail down, He asks for God to halt the natural order of things, so they can join in His work.

From here on out Israel will do the fighting, full of faith they will conquer the rest of the land.

It is interesting how quickly we can start down the path of self-centeredness where are prayers are consumed with God blessing us.

It happens to all of us, I remember one time, I was in a lull in my walk with the Lord, and I was in this season of living as though I am the center of God's universe.

I was working in Kingman, Az. And I was driving home, I called a Christian brother to cry about how I was in this lull in my walk.

Isn't it when we are self-centered, that we are most depressed, but when we stop looking our ourselves, and we get busy about God's Work, and serving others, the joy returns?

I said the words, "I have not been used by God for a while now, I feel distant from Him."

And my phone cut out, and right there on the on ramp a guy was hitch hiking, and I felt the prompting of the Lord.

So I pulled over, and picked the guy up, he was heading into Havasu too, he had just got out of the prison there in Kingman.

I prayed within my heart, “Lord what is this all about.”

This guy was rough, and I was uncomfortable.

He began to tell me his story, drugs were his hindrance in life, and the pursuit of the high kept getting him in trouble.

I took that as an open door, and began to share my testimony and what God was doing in my own life.

Now we had about 30 minutes, and I presented the gospel as clear as I could, and we came strolling into the parking lot of Walmart there in Havasu where he wanted to be dropped off.

I told the man, “you know, Satan could have sent one of his workers of iniquity to pick you up, and they could have had drugs right there for you.”

“But God intervened and He sent me, and this is no coincidence.”

And this tough convict broke, and he began weeping, and at this point, I knew this was God working, because my testimony was not greatly presented, I was tired from working all day, and my gospel presentation was weak, and yet the Spirit of God was working in this man’s heart.

He wept, and cried, and you know I don't like germs, and touching men is difficult for me.

But I asked him if he wanted to ask Jesus in his life, and he said "yes," so we prayed, and then he grabbed me and cried sorrow from years of pent up emotion.

And you know snot was all over my shirt, and tears soaking me, but I did not care, it was holy snot and tears.

And I thought in that moment, how foolish I had been, and God kind of whispered, "all you had to do was ask, I am at work all around you, and when you want to join in My work, there is plenty to do."

You see when we understand that this is His universe, and not ours, the spectacular happens and miracles abound.

There is so much work to be done, and we are all invited to join Him in the work, but we have to get our eyes off of our self first, and start looking for God to join Him.

May we be on God's side, and not ask Him to be on our side.

So Joshua gets a once in history kind of moment, and Israel is victorious.

Next, we read...

The Amorite Kings Executed

16 But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. 17 And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

18 So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. 19 And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand." 20 Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. 21 And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace.

No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

And we can see clearly here, Joshua defeated the morale of Canaan, but there would still be people to dispose in the future settlements.

Many fled to fortified cities, but the fear of Israel and their powerful God swept through the land.

Understand the Canaanites worshipped the sun and the moon, and here Yahweh just showed He was even more powerful than their own gods.

Joshua locked the five kings in a cave, and these men who should have been with their troops, are shaking in fear inside the cave.

And Joshua will use them as a parable or illustration.

22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave." 23 And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

24 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." 26 And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening. 27 So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Joshua, called for the men of war, and he used these kings to illustrate what would happen if they remained on God's side.

He stands on their neck in victory, and builds the army's faith by giving them the same assurance he received from the Lord.

"Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

And from this illustration the army moves in God's power and strength and takes the rest of the southland.

Conquest of the Southland

28 On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them — all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against Libnah. 30 And the Lord also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the Lord delivered Lachish

into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining.

34 From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it. 37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword — its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

40 So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded. 41 And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. 42 All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Notice they moved ahead from the supernatural incident with the sun standing still, with the realization that their God who is with them, is more powerful than any force on earth.

And they came to victory after victory.

Church, we must keep moving forward in the battle, we are assured in **1 John 4:4** that

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

When we are on God's side, our enemies crumble before us.

Your pornography addiction is not match for the cleansing of God's Word.

Your lying tongue can speak truth with the Spirit of God within you.

Your fears of failure vanish with Christ the Victor within your heart.

Your fragile marriage can be shored up and strengthened upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

That life controlling addiction can be decimated by Jesus who sets men free.

There is no enemy or circumstance in your life, that our God is not greater than.

When we are on God's side, victory is assured.

Yes the battle wages on, but victory is promised.

Rom 8:37-39 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Understand when we are on God's side, His love is great, and it abounds in your life.

We are empowered to conquer those powerful enemies in our lives.

But we must first be on the side of God to be assured the victory.

Notice in the last verse in that chapter... verse 43 shows us as Joshua was in habit to do, he returned to Gilgal to recoup.

And we see him often returning to Gilgal to rest and seek the Lord for his next move.

I don't know about you, but church is my Gilgal, as we battle all week long against our enemy, I love coming to the Sanctuary of the Lord, and hearing from God's Word, worshipping our God, and being in fellowship with the people of God.

It is so important that we find our way to our Gilgal, to be refreshed and strengthened in the Lord.

Gilgal is not a place of isolation, it is a place of community, where you can be built up in the Lord.

We are not in an isolated battle, but a battle with other warriors, and here is where we get our marching orders, where we share our war stories, and where we motivate each other to continue on in the fight.

Gilgal was a place of rest, a place to find energy, and a place to discuss strategy.

Make your way to Gilgal as often as you can, to find strength to carry on.

Now, with the south pretty much decimated, Joshua and his army move to conquer the North.

And we as Christian soldiers have a duty as well to complete the conquest that God has put before us.

Quitting is not an option, Israel must take all the promises of God, and we must complete the work He has destined our lives for.

So we are going to read the final two chapters in their entirety so we can make it to the distribution of the Land next time we are together.

The Northern Conquest

11:1 And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6 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." 7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. 8 And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook

Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. 9 So Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

Remember, Joshua was disabling the force of the enemy, but the future battles of the individual tribes would be secured by the disabling of the armored vehicles of the day.

And this slave nation now conquering Canaan did not have the skills or the experience to work these war machines.

So they had no need for them.

God was their key to victory, not horses or chariots.

10 Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms. 11 And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire.

12 So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. 13 But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned. 14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of

Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing. 15 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.

Summary of Joshua's Conquests

16 Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain — the mountains of Israel and its lowlands, 17 from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them. 18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

Understand sometimes we read these records and we think because they are summed up quickly that the time period was short.

But these wars spanned many years for Joshua.

We can do the same thing when we read Acts, we think if we are not seeing miracles and huge outreaches as recorded in Acts that the church is doing something wrong, but those accounts we read so quickly span over many years as well.

Many want the spectacular but they are not willing to put in the years of dedication and work it requires to get to that point.

Joshua warred a long time in Canaan.

19 There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle. 20 For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

21 And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. 22 None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.

I would like to point out here, one thing that stands out in verse 21-22.

The Anakim were not Star Wars characters, these were the decedents of the giants.

It was these giants that put such dread in the Israelites almost 4 decades prior, that they were kept out of the land.

And here they are a final note in the conquest of Canaan, God made a quick work of them.

Isn't this the truth about the giants in our life, that we dread so much.

We find, when we square up in battle, on the Lord's side, that our God has no equal, He is always victorious.

Our enemy is a roaring lion, a boisterous loud mouth, but when we are in the center of God's will, Satan is restricted to what he can do in our lives.

If you have read John Bunyan's book Pilgrims progress, you will remember when Christian approached the Palace Beautiful.

He stepped down the narrow path leading to the lodge, when he saw two lions.

But the lions were chained and could go no further than the chains allowed, and Christian could not see the chains.

And that is often how the we look at those giants in our lives.

We see the terror and the havoc they can bring upon our lives.

But Jesus is as Paul said in **Eph. 1:21** is

21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

We find our enemy is chained, he is bound, and defeated.

Oh sometimes we dread moving forward into the next battle, but keep moving Christian, keep stepping out in faith, and be sure you are on the side of the Lord.

And soon, you will look back, as Joshua is about to do here, and see your enemies defeated.

The Kings Conquered by Moses(cf. Num. 21:21-35)

12:1 These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain: 2 One king was Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon and ruled half of Gilead, from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, from the middle of that river, even as far as the River Jabbok, which is the border of the Ammonites, 3 and the eastern Jordan plain from the Sea of Chinneroth as far as the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), the road to Beth Jeshimoth, and southward below the slopes of Pisgah. 4 The other king was Og king of Bashan and his territory, who was of the remnant of the giants, who dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, 5 and reigned over Mount Hermon, over Salcah, over all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

6 These Moses the servant of the Lord and the children of Israel had conquered; and Moses the servant of the Lord had given it as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

Notice included in the history of the conquest of Canaan is the victories on the East side of the Jordan.

These are a unifying historical record.

The victories on the other side of the Jordan were Israeli victories and the tribes on that side will be included in the nation as a whole.

We will see later in the Book of Joshua the tribes on the east side were very concerned that they would be forgotten and eventually regarded as non-Israeli.

And it is easy it develop biases when some people are at different stages of the promises of God.

And in the church today we must make every endeavor to maintain the unity of God's people.

Today people divide over all kinds of things, some will disregard you if you take welfare, some think they are better than others because they make more money than you.

Or people assess others by their clothes or education level.

If a woman is divorced, she might be looked down upon by the married woman.

Some even put themselves in the doctrinally elite category, and they have trouble associating with the more base thinking man.

And all this is to be avoided in the church.

I marvel that many Christian's today act as though they forget they were losers when God found them.

In fact, in order to come into our faith, with a genuine response, you must come to terms with yourself, and see that you truly are a wretched man or woman.

How can people who come from such a low place ever hold their head high in judgment over others?

1 Cor. 1:27-29 God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

We are all one in Christ, and we must strive to maintain this unity, for we are all the foolish, the weak, the debased, the despised that God has chosen.

Israel's tribes are one nation, on both sides of the Jordan.

And no matter your background or level of spirituality, we are all equals at the cross of Christ.

So This chapter finishes up with a listing of the kings Joshua conquered on the west side of the Jordan.

The Kings Conquered by Joshua

7 And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions, 8 in the mountain country, in the lowlands, in the Jordan plain, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the South — the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: 9 the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one; 10 the king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one; 11 the king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one; 12 the king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one; 13 the king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one; 14 the king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one; 15 the king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one; 16 the king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one; 17 the king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hopher, one; 18 the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one; 19 the king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one; 20 the king of Shimron Meron, one; the king of Achshaph, one; 21 the king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one; 22 the king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one; 23 the king of Dor in the heights of Dor,

one; the king of the people of Gilgal, one; 24 the king of Tirzah, one — all the kings, thirty-one.

What a list they have to look back upon, what amazing victories for a nation of wandering slaves.

They, on God's side have done the impossible.

Church understand we too have the responsibility of completing the conquest.

Maybe you are here tonight and you are ready to throw in the towel, you are ready to give up, life is getting to be too much.

Please consider the reality presented in...

Eph. 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

You are in a spiritual battle tonight, everyone of you who call yourself by the name of our God, and you are Christian.

You are in a fight, until your last breath.

The only way to win is to keep fighting, to move toward the battle, you spiritual armor will protect your advance.

Please do not give up too soon, you don't know what miracle is just up ahead, you don't know what mighty act God is about to do in your life.

We have His sure Word to hold onto, and He will not abandon His purpose in your life.

So stay on God's side, pray tonight for God to reveal to you His work that He wants to do in you.

Let's be done with asking God to bless our path, and dare to seek the path He has for our lives.

And may we watch even as the giants in our lives fall.

Please, tonight during this last song, find your strength in the Lord to keep fighting, I know you are weary, but victory is ahead.

Please during this last song make your way up to the altar and get prayer from the elders tonight.

Let them minister to you, and may the Lord give you strength tonight.

Please take advantage of this prayer time.

Let's pray...