

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

The first 12 chapters of the book of Joshua – speak about conquering the land that God had promised them, the land flowing with milk and honey.

And so far, we have seen Joshua, lead the Israelites from city to city.

We've seen victory when they are obedient to the will of God and when they place their trust in Him and we have seen them suffer setbacks when they rely on their own understanding and self-sufficiency.

Last week we saw God give the Israelites victory over the Amorites as He held back the sun for Joshua and as He cast down large hailstones toward those that were fled from the Israelites.

And then toward the end of the chapter, we saw God deliver to the Israelites all the nations that were in the south.

Here in chapter 11, the focus will now be on the remainder of the land that still needed to be conquered and that is the land in the north.

And this chapter starts off the same way that the last few chapters have begun.

With the different groups coming together to find a way to destroy the Children of Israel.

[Jos 11:1-23 NKJV] 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 (Kinneroth – “harp” this is one of the names for the Sea of Galilee), 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.

So the nations of Canaanite that are in the north – they get word of what Joshua and Israelites have done to their neighbors down in the south.

They get word that the Gibeonites have made a peace treaty with the Israelites

So they proceed to form a coalition –

They proceed to form an exceptional army, one that the Israelites had not encountered before.

Josephus, the Jewish secular historian tells us that Jabin amassed an army that consisted of 300,000 soldiers – not including 10,000 horsemen and 20,000 chariots.

A very formidable army.

A chariot in those days was like a tank – they were iron tipped and manufactured to rip through the formed lines of the enemies.

The Israelites didn't have any chariots.

They didn't have horsemen.

They didn't have a trained army of 300,000.

And one of the things we find out through the book of Joshua is that as the progress deeper into the Promised Land,

So when word gets to Joshua – about the army and the chariots and the horsemen, we can understand the fear that he must have experienced knowing that he was supposed to lead the Israelites against this formidable army.

How do we know that he was experiencing fear???

Because the Lord sees the fear in Joshua's heart and comforts him in the very next verse.

Church, some of us might have shown up to church this morning worrying about something.

Always remember that God speaks to it in His word.

He will comfort us, if we are willing to have fellowship with Him. And place our trust in Him.

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."

Joshua – the person that the Lord selected to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land – was prone to being afraid from time to time.

This is the fourth time that God Himself has reminded Joshua to not be afraid.

Joshua 1:9 – Do not be afraid

Joshua 8:1 – Do not be afraid

Joshua 10:8 – Do not fear them

And here in Joshua 11:6 – Do not be afraid.

It is not the being afraid that is the problem – it is when the fear stops one from doing what one is called to do – that is the problem.

Remember – that was the issue with the Children of Israel failing to enter the Promised Land the first time – they were afraid.

It was their response to the fear.

However, Joshua had fear but his response was to place his trust in the Lord despite the fear.

That is what we are called to do church.

Not only does the Lord tell Joshua to not be afraid – He tells Joshua that the enemy will be delivered into his hands in 24 hours.

Now, I also asked you to underline the last portion of verse

6.

God commanding Joshua to hamstring their horses.

To hamstringing a horse means to cut the tendon just above the hock (like the knee on a horse's back legs).

It renders the back legs useless and immobile.

It would essentially kill the horse because the horse wouldn't be able to stand up. Horses need their back legs to get up.

At the very least it will cripple the horses.

Why do this to the horses?

Why not just use the horses and chariots for their own use?

1) They didn't know how to use horses and chariots. It would probably be a greater burden taking care of them than to just destroy them. Plus, if they kept them, the enemies could possibly recapture them again.

2) So they would trust in the Lord and not the horses or chariots.

[Psa 20:7 NKJV] 7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

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. 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.

In our study last week, when the Gibeonites were under attack and they call upon Joshua and the Israelites to help them, one of the things that I pointed out was that the scriptures tell us that Joshua marched his army all night to combat the armies that came against the Gibeonites.

Here Joshua does the same, he is the one on the offensive.

Instead of sitting around and waiting for them, he marches his men from Gilgal to Merom – 75 mile hike up the Jordan Valley.

You see church, the war is not won in the battle...it is won in the preparation!

When hard trials come, when tough temptation comes...we will stand or we will fall...we will have victory or we will know defeat depending upon how prepared we are...how strong we are...how much we know the promises of God (the Word of God) and how much we believe them...

Joshua is on the offense because not only does he know, but he also believes!

Once again we see the complete obedience of Joshua and the Israelites.

Joshua has learned his lesson from when he made the peace treaty with the Gibeonites.

There is no longer a compromise of the word of God.

Joshua conquered the Promised Land but, it happened because of his obedience to God.

Sometimes we get the silly idea that we can still get to the same place without having to do it God's way – church, it will not work.

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. 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.

A few weeks ago, when we went over chapter nine, when Joshua makes the peace treaty with the Gibeonites, I made the point that God allowed a provision for some of the ites that lived at a distance to make a peace treaty with the Children of Israel.

Why was that???

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.

God pronounced the judgment upon the Canaanites some 400 years earlier to Abraham.

While the Israelites were in Egypt – they could have repented from their wickedness. But, they didn't.

40 years earlier, they heard that the God of the Israelites parted the Red Sea – they could have repented then, but they didn't.

They knew what God had done to the kings in wilderness – but they didn't repent

They knew that God stopped the Jordan from flowing – and that the Israelites crossed on dry ground – they could have repented then, but again – they didn't.

God's judgment is always righteous.

Their hearts were hardened not because God grace didn't extend to them; their hearts were already hardened because they had repeatedly rejected God's grace.

You see church, grace has two effects on the hearts of men – it can soften it and we come to acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior or it can harden our hearts by rejecting the grace that has been shown to us.

Turn with me to the book of Romans -

[Rom 1:18-20 NKJV] 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown [it] to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

On judgment day, there will be no one who will appear before God and proclaim, "I didn't know"

The ites saw the evidence, however, because of their wickedness and refusal to repent from their wickedness – they suppressed the truth and their hearts were hardened.

Many of our family members that don't know the Lord, they see the evidence as well, but they too refuse repent from their wickedness and their hearts get harder and harder.

That is why it is important to pray that the Lord may soften the hearts of the nonbelievers, so that they will be receptive to the gospel.

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. I asked you to make a note of the Anakim,

Who were the Anakim???

Turn with me to Num 13,

[Num 13:33 NKJV] 33 "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

When the 12 spies went into the Promised Land, 10 spies gave a bad report that brought discouragement to the Children of Israel.

And it was the Anakim, these descendants of Anak – that highlighted the bad report.

However, we see the difference as Joshua walks by faith instead of by sight and destroyed most of them.

I asked you make a note that the Anakim were not completely wiped out.

And I asked you to make a note of the city of Gath.

Why?

Because these three cities are part of the five city confederation of the Philistines. We learned this early on in the book of 1 Samuel – remember when they take the ark of the covenant and then everyone in the five cities suffers from hemorrhoids, so they eventually ship the ark back to the Israelites.

Anyways, one of the descendants of these Anakim will be a soldier named Goliath, which we will see in a few weeks on Wednesday.

And when we will see that Goliath was from the city of Gath – which is one of the cities that the Anakim remained in.

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.

Despite giants and armies that were better equipped than the Israelites, Joshua took the whole land.

[1Jo 4:4 NKJV] 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Now, in chapter 12, we have a long list of names and we must remember that the reason that we have them is because God felt the need to include them.

Remember that the scriptures were written for them as well.

And we might not show an interest to these names or places but the people in earlier times did.

You see they would be able to look at the scriptures and be reminded of God's faithfulness in detail.

[Jos 12:1-24 NKJV] 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. 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.

God is a keeper of names, this list is proof that what we read is not some sort of fairy tales or legends.

And in the same way that Joshua led the Israelites into conquering the Promised Land, our Joshua (Jesus) will do the same as we walk in the abundant life that we have been promised.

Let's pray..

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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