

## Joshua

### Lesson #12, Chapter 11

To be obedient to the Lord, Joshua needed to continue to take control of the rest of the land of Canaan. Chapter 11 testifies of Joshua's faithfulness to carry out God's commands: *Just 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. Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of Israel's victories in central and southern Canaan and prepares a plan to defeat Israel. Who does he rally together and where do they come from (verses 1-3)? Locate as many places as possible on the map included in this lesson.
2. As the different armies meet at the waters of Merom, how are the kings described and what is their plan (verses 4-5)?
3. The Israelites were a small army compared to the huge force gathered together. What encouragement does Joshua receive from the Lord (verse 6)?
4. Horses and chariots were a sign of military supremacy and an army with many horses and chariots would be considered a formidable enemy. Why would God tell Joshua to cripple the horses and destroy the chariots instead of using them for themselves? See Deut. 17:16; Ps. 20:7; 33:16-17; Is. 31:1.
5. Joshua was facing the largest, best equipped, and most fearsome army yet of the conquest, but God was telling him not to fear. Have you ever encountered a time like that in your life, where circumstances were overwhelming, but God's Word was telling you to put your hope in Him? Explain how you are learning to live upon the truth of God's Word when you find yourself in similar situations.

6. What was Joshua's response to the Lord's encouragement (verses 7-9)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. We know nothing of Joshua's *feelings* about the wars and destruction that were part of conquering the land. However, the Bible says that *Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him*. Joshua acted in obedience to the commands of the Lord. What attitudes are necessary for obeying God's word? How much of a part should feelings play when it comes to obeying the Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is the fate of all these kings and their cities in the north (verse 12)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is the outcome for Hazor and why (verses 10-11, 13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Jericho, Ai, and Hazor all have the distinction of being the only cities that Joshua burned down. The rest of the cities of the land were left intact. What reason for doing so is given in Deut. 6:10-11?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Verse 12 says Joshua did as Moses had commanded. What had Moses commanded? See Deut. 3:21-22 and 20:16-18.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is the key to victory (verse 15)?

13. *Just 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.* Can the same be said of you? Have you left things undone that the Lord has commanded? Choose one of the following passages and meditate on it: Jn. 15:5-10; Phil. 4:4-9; Col. 3:1-25; Eph. 4:29-32; I Pet. 3:1-5; or I Jn. 4:21. As you consider those passages, think about your obedience in carrying out the Lord's will. If there are areas that you've left undone, what steps do you need to take to begin walking in obedience? Spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you target any areas you're not faithfully obeying.
  
14. Though the Lord repeatedly reminded Joshua that He would fight for Israel, Joshua still needed to be out on the battlefield. The Christian life is the same. God enables us, guides us, strengthens us, but we still have a part to play. Read Phil. 2:12-13, then explain the balance of God at work in you while you obey God.
  
15. Verses 16-17 summarize the conquest of Canaan. Chart on your map the "entire land" that Israel took.
  
16. Verse 18 records that waging war with all these kings took a long time. Why? See Ex. 23:29-30 and Deut. 7:22-24.
  
17. In the conquest of the land all the kings and inhabitants are destroyed in battle. Why? See verse 20; Deut. 7:2, 16; 20:16-18.
  
18. When the text says, *God hardened their hearts* (verse 20), it doesn't mean God made them disobedient for they had already made their choices. Rather, it means, "God confirmed the hearts of these unrepentant people in their stubborn unbelief before judging

them (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*).” Read Rom. 1:18-32. What are some of the things you observe of someone with a hardened heart?

19. One Puritan writer said that *though God is patient, He is not ever patient and He will punish sin*. Peter urges his readers to consider their own lives in light of this truth when he says in 2 Pet. 3:14 *Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless*. Even as believers there may be times when we are stubborn and unrepentant in a certain area. How can the truths mentioned here in this question be an encouragement to you today to not grow hardened about sin?
  
20. Verses 21-22 talk about the Anakim. Who were they and what role did they play in Israel’s history? Num. 13:28, 31-33; Deut. 1:26-28; 9:1-2.
  
21. Forty years earlier Israel’s fathers didn’t enter the land because of their fear over these giants. Now Joshua and his army rout them. What has made the difference?
  
22. When you are wrestling with your own fears, your own personal *Anakim*, what makes the difference in whether you conquer them or not?
  
23. What 3 results do you see from all the wars Israel fought (verse 23)?

24. Just reading, *Thus the land had rest from war* makes you want to put your feet up and breathe a sigh of relief. Ahhh, a break, a rest, a breather. As you battle against sin each day, make sure that you take a break and find rest in Jesus Christ. What is your pattern for taking time each day to spend with Jesus?

