

## The Book of Joshua



Excavation of Hazor

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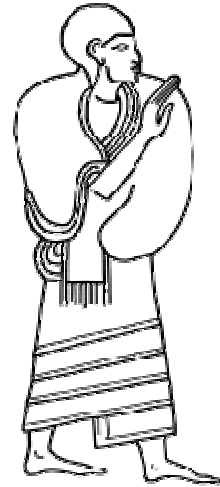
Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

## Chapter Eleven

### 1. Northern Kings Gather a Coalition Force 11.1-5

#### How large and how well equipped was this force?

Hazor: is located 8 miles north of Galilee. Located on the strategic *Via Maris*, (8 miles north of Galilee) it may have had a population of 40,000 or more. For the first time in Joshua the "chariot" is mentioned. This was one of the most important instruments of war at this time.



### 2. Encouragement and Victory 11.6-9

#### Why does God repeat the encouragement, "do not be afraid."

Joshua 1.9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 8.1 Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land."

Joshua 10.25 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."

God's people need constant encouragement no matter how many victories they have seen!

We also need to focus on encouragement. We look to God for it and we share it with one another. Think about your own families. How many words of encouragement do you share with your spouse and with your children compared to the words of criticism? Criticism will be necessary. But encouragement is even more necessary.

Why were the horses hamstrung and the chariots burned? I think one of the reasons for this had to do with God's real purpose. The Conquest of the Promised Land was not a conquest of world domination. Normally a victorious army would have captured the enemy's implements of war and employed them for further battles. But Israel really had no great need for them at this time. I think this was God's way of keeping them focused on His mission, and preventing them from carrying it further than necessary.

### 3. The Northern Cities Fall 11.10-15

#### **Which Canaanite cities did Joshua burn?**

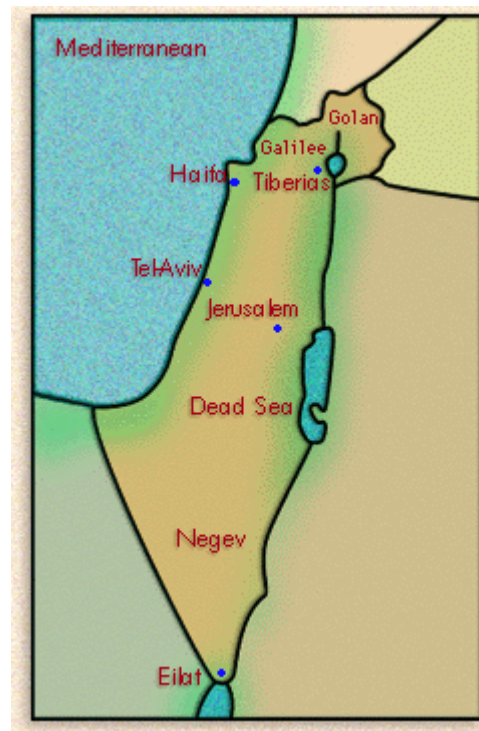
Joshua burned three cities: Jericho, Ai, and Hazor. The other cities were left to be inhabited by Israel. This fulfilled one of the prophecies of Moses....

Deuteronomy 6:10 " So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, <sup>11</sup> "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant - - when you have eaten and are full --

### 4. A Summary of Conquered Land 11.16-23

#### **How long did the conquest last?**

From the Negev to Mt. Hermon  
Joshua took all the land.  
It was many days of destruction. Based on the age of Caleb, the conquest lasted about seven years. Caleb was forty when the desert wandering began (Deut 2.14). He was 78 when he entered Canaan. According to



14.10 he was 85 when the conquest was over.

### **What was the purpose?**

**Hardened Hearts:** Look at verses 18-20. As in the case of Pharaoh, God cut off the opportunity for repentance and brought down His judgment upon these nations. Already in Genesis 15.16 we are told that God was restraining His wrath against the Amorites (people of Canaan). For 700 years they refused His clemency. God is the one who determines judgment day for all of us. In the case of the Canaanites it came upon them all very suddenly.

### **Why are Christians not permitted to enforce this kind of judgment today?**

**Luther:** He commanded this work, not because He wanted this to be a permanent obligation of His people, but because He had decreed to destroy those Gentiles completely on account of their sins, a work for which He wanted to use His people. He who overthrew Sodom without using another nation is wont at other times to punish one nation through another nation. Therefore one should not apply this literal and fleshly understanding of the First Commandment to Christians... For this task was assigned specifically to this nation for a time, just like everything else that is commanded to this nation, for example, the [OT] rules concerning marriage, covenants, and all outward ceremonies. (American Edition 9.79).



