

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 11:1-23

- Joshua has just conquered the southern region of Canaan having gone up against a federation of five powerful Kings with five well equipped armies, but despite facing those uphill odds being outnumbered by at least one hundred to one, Israel was able to wipe out all five of them in one day during this single battle. All of this occurred after Joshua made a big mistake in relying on his own wisdom, which caused him to sign a peace treaty with the Gibeonites which could have led to a disaster, but God turned his blunder into a blessing.

V1-23

- **V1-5** after defeating the Kings of the South the Kings in the North send word to the mountains, the plains, the heights, in the lowlands, to the Canaanites in the East and to the West, to sound the alarm that they may come together in order to fight against the Israelites. By the time these Kings had finished riling up the people in the northern part of Canaan we read that those who gathered to fight against Israel was like the sand that is on the seashore, that means innumerable, and they came and waited at the waters of Merom.
- In reading this two things stand out that show Israel was at a distinct disadvantage > **1ST Superiority in size**- they had so many soldiers that it looked like the sand on a seashore, the sheer sight of this alone would have been intimidating enough to stop your advancement.
- **2nd Superiority in weaponry**- Chariots in that day was the equivalent of tanks today, and history says they had at least 20,000 of them, while Israel had none. In the natural these are insurmountable odds without the Lord, just seeing something like this would make most people turn around and go back to where you came from, but Israel is following The Lord's command and not playing the odds to determine whether they should fight or not.
- Something interesting is the "**waters of Merom**" are located in "**the valley of Megiddo**", the same place where **Rev 19:19-21** says the antichrist will gather a massive army of people to come and fight against Jesus Christ in the battle of Armageddon. So this event gives us a preview of the prophecies mentioned in Revelations of how the world will one day mass together in a coalition to fight our greater than Joshua Jesus Christ Himself amazing!
- **V6** Joshua no doubt has heard about this massive gathering and despite having faced unfavorable odds before having defeated the five Kings earlier is still in need of encouragement. **10:8** God told him before the previous battle "**do not fear them for I have delivered them into your hand, not a man of them shall stand before you**".
- **10:42** after the victory God reminds Joshua "**all these Kings, their land, he took because The Lord God fought for Israel**". Now here in **V6** God says "**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**".

- Two important points we can take from this encouragement > **1st** “don’t be afraid- **2 Tim 1:7** God hasn’t given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Meaning don’t allow your emotions to paralyze you and dictate your obedience. **2nd** “I will give you the victory”- the fight I not yours its mine, you simply get to represent Me, but I determine the outcome. **1Sam 17:47, 2 Chron 20:15**, both tell us that its God, and not man, or weapons that brings victory, so you and I need not focus solely on the problem but the problem solver
- **V7-9** having received God’s assurance Israel goes into action and they use a surprise attack and ambush this massive coalition unexpectedly by the water of Merom and following God’s direction they completely wipe them out, even burning the chariots and hamstringing their horses. **Deut 17:16** God said Kings were not to multiply horses for themselves because Canaanites linked horses to their pagan worship of the sun, and later in **2 Kings 23:11** so did Judah, > **Ps 20:7-9**- we must remember God’s Word no matter what the odds look like.
- **V10-14** Hazor was the largest and most influential of the northern Canaanite cities and their King was the main reason that the other nations gathered together against Israel so Joshua is going to make an example of them. Some of these cities Joshua saved for future use for the Israelite people but the city of Hazor he burned it to the ground as a symbol to all the other nations that if great Hazor couldn’t escape Israel neither will none of you.
- **V15-17** when Joshua and Israel did exactly what God told them they experienced victory which was what the Lord promised them, and it’s the same for you and I. We get into trouble when we start to wrongly believe that we know better than God, that’s what got us in this mess in the first place someone doing what they thought was right instead of what God said “Adam and Eve” and sadly the same thing is still happening today with the same bad results
- **V18-20** even though God promised them victory it did not come easy or quickly, as it will take Joshua seven years before they conquered Canaan. In spite of their many conquests we read that only one group of people sought peace and that was the Gibeonites, the rest had to be taken by force and in battle, as God hardened the people’s hearts wow!.
- **V21-23** special mention is given to “**the Anakim**” which were the giants of the land, those whom the first generation of Israel forty five years ago said upon seeing them “**we were like grasshoppers in or own sight and so we were in there’s**”. Translation: who can stand against them? Well Joshua did and won, its interesting that when we focus on our own problems they grow, and become deified, while God shrinks and is nullified.
- But when God is magnified like here, these so called giants are chased right out of their dwelling places and forced to go somewhere else to live. We will always look small in the enemies sight without God, but with God they shrink, and we grow, not necessarily in stature but in the Spirit. Joshua chased them out of their land right into Philistine land, and that is how Goliath got there many years later, when David will confront him.

- Then only after complete obedience did the land have rest, which is translated quietness or peace. There can be no quietness until darkness has been driven out as light and darkness don't mix. Also true peace can only come from complete obedience to God, and complete obedience to God, will force you to be at odds with anything and anyone that is promoting evil, for as we just read there will be no **rest** without **conflict**.