

## Joshua 11-13

### Chapter 11

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. Would you please turn in your Bibles to Joshua chapter 11?

Tonight we officially cross over the halfway point in our study of this incredible book

Last time in our study we saw how the Hivites-those from Gibeon, lied in order to make a treaty with Joshua and Israel so they would live. And it worked, Joshua made peace and then Israel defended the Gibeonites by defeating a coalition of kings in battle.

We're going to study chapters 11 through 13 and the title of tonight's message is FOLLOWING THROUGH

Lets pray

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, Word had spread of Israel's conquests throughout the land that we saw in last weeks text. **SHOW MAP 1** We have a map that kinda gives you a better sense of what's taking place in these next several verses

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, The word "Chinneroth" means "harp-shaped." It refers to the Sea of Galilee. And for those who've stood on top of mount Arbel and looked out over the lake you know the Sea of Galilee resembles a harp.

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. The armies of this northern coalition were all under the command of Jabin, king of Hazor. And this is an almost unfathomable army. The Jewish historian, Josephus, says Jabin gathered 300,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, and 10,000 chariots. Each chariot crew consisted of 3 soldiers – a driver, a bowman, and a javelin thrower. Jabin's army was an imposing war machine.

And look where this battle is about to take place-the waters of Merom. This doesn't mean much to us until we realize the waters of Merom are in the valley of Megiddo. And why does Megiddo matter-Because it's in the valley of Megiddo that the worlds forces gather together to fight our Greater than Joshua, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 16 12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and[fn] of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.[fn]

In Revelation 19 we see a final battle occur at Christ's second coming as the conquering Christ defeats the forces of the Antichrist at Megiddo.

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.” God has once again promised victory, just as He has promised us that the victory is already won, and we will one day spend eternity with Him. Revelation 22 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

7-9

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,[fn] 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. These armies trusted in their horses to defeat the Hebrews but failed. And the Bible tells us we are not to trust in horses Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;

But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

There’s always the temptation to trust that which is tangible. Yet we’re to trust in almighty God.

**CLOSE MAP 1**

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. Remember God used Israel to judge these people for their perverse culture.

12-15

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,[fn] 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 almost every battle, Joshua was outnumbered, but he utilized speed, stealth, and surprise. Today, modern Israelis hail Joshua as the ultimate military commander, but who really fought the battles? It was the Commander of the Lord's army! Our Lord Jesus led the Hebrews to victory – just as he also leads us to victory.

16 Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain[fn]—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. We talked about this last week in Joshua 9.

The Gibeonites had a peace treaty with them, but every other nation came against Israel.

And again notice the similarities and picture of prophecy here. The armies thought they could gather together and defeat Joshua, just like the armies of the world will think they can challenge Jesus in the last days. **Revelation 19 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

**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 had given the Canaanites 400 years to repent.

The hardening of men's hearts is when God gives someone over to the sin that is in his heart. We talked about this at length in our study of Exodus with God and Pharaoh's heart. God does not harden a heart without first the person repeatedly hardening it.

**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.** If you recall, it was the fear of the

Anakim - this tribe of exceptionally large and strong giants - that had made Israel too afraid to enter the land back in Numbers 13.

Here, their scariest enemies fall, because God was with the Israelites.

It's interesting that Israel faced the Anakim last, only after God had trained them in battle and in working with Him through the months of conquest. He didn't give them the anakim first up. The Lord is gentle in His approach with us! Aren't you so glad the battles you fight today aren't the ones you had to fight when you first became a believer?

The Anakim remained only in these coastal cities occupied by the Philistines. The giant Goliath comes from the city of Gath some five hundred years later in 1 Samuel 17.

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.

To be clear, not every small town and village had been conquered and occupied. That was up to each individual tribe to do in the section of land that was allocated to them.

## Chapter 12

Chapter 12 sums up Israel's victories thus far. It's a review of the battles the Israelites won.

1-6

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, (east battles) 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. The eastern lands were given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Half of the tribe of Manasseh lived east of the Jordan River, and half of the tribe lived west of the Jordan River.

The Kings Conquered west of the Jordan are listed in verse 7-24

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. Why read these verses and not just skip over a bunch of names none of us are ever gonna remember? Because we're studying history! It proves these were events that actually took place. It wasn't a fun story just handed down, it's Israel's history that begins with specific places and people and rulers.

Joshua 13 describes remaining land that was to be conquered. For most of our study of Joshua, we've seen supernatural work after supernatural work. Yet chapter 13 and beyond details a more mundane work. The book of Joshua is filled with both the supernatural and the very common.

I've discovered the Christian life is a similar combination. At times God works in miraculous, stupendous ways, but He also calls us to certain basic duties. The Christian life is a combination of God's unusual acts, and our common tasks.

Here General Joshua leaves behind the thrill of battle, the strategic planning and the thrill of victory as he embarks on a shall we say, less exciting endeavor. He picks up his transit and range rod, and does the routine job of a surveyor. Joshua's job in chapters 13-24 is to divide the land among the tribes of Israel.



Though all the earth belongs to God, land allotment was – and still is – an important issue in Israel. Two passages in Deuteronomy prove the point... **Deuteronomy 19:14** says, **You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.** God commanded respect for property markers and boundaries. **Deuteronomy 27:17** also says, **"Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark." "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"**

The last half of Joshua was recorded to avoid such disputes... I guess you could say we're going to cover a lot of ground in chapter 13...

1-3

**1** Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed. **2** This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites, **3** from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines—the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites; We'll see later these cities were never fully conquered. Later they become the five Philistine strongholds.

4-6

**4** from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites; **5** the land of the Gebalites,[fn] and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, (eastward) from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath; **6** all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth,[fn] and

all the Sidonians—they I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you. The land was Israel's inheritance not from man, but from God. God promised the land to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 12. The land of Israel was God's gift to the Hebrews. This is why the land is so important to Israelis today.

Israel is much more than a political bargaining chip. To give up Gaza, or the West Bank, or the Golan Heights is to reject God's will and His promise intended for Israel.

Now as we go through the inheritance, you'll realize that the Hebrews never fully possessed the land God promised them. After Joshua dies, the Israelis found compromise an easier way to deal with the pagans than combat. We'll see this when we get to the book of Judges.

**7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.**” What is called “The West Bank”, or the land west of the Jordan – was to be allocated to 9½ of Israel's 12 tribes.

On today's map, the land God has stated belongs to Israel includes everything modern-day Israel possesses, plus all of the territory occupied by the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Today Israel currently possesses only a fraction of the land God has promised; the rest of their inheritance likely awaits the return of Christ.

**SHOW MAP 2**

The Land Divided East of the Jordan

8 With the other half-tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them: In Numbers 32, Rueben, Gad, and half of Manasseh asked Moses if they could settle on the east bank of the Jordan. They figured the lush fields would make perfect grazing for their cattle. At first Moses refused. He thought they were trying to avoid their responsibility to fight and conquer the Canaanites. But the tribes assured Moses they were willing to go to battle. They would fight alongside the other tribes until the enemy was defeated, then they'd return to the pastures east of the Jordan.

In the remainder of chapter 13 Joshua reminds them of their boundaries.

9 from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon; (east of the Dead Sea) 10 all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the children of Ammon; 11 Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah; 12 all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these.

13 Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day. Here we get our first glimpse in Joshua that the nation will not do as they were commanded.

14 Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them. Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons, which comprised the Twelve

Tribes of Israel. The tribe of Joseph, however, was represented by Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, which, technically, meant there were thirteen tribes.

The Levites were the one tribe that received no territory. Their inheritance was the administration of the tabernacle – the sacrifices and the worship of God. Specific cities throughout the land were established for the Levites.

In verses 15-23 borders are staked out for the tribe of Reuben that settled east of the Jordan. They occupied the land east and a little north of the Dead Sea.

15 And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families. 16 Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain by Medeba; 17 Heshbon and all its cities that are in the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaza, Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kirjathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on the mountain of the valley, 20 Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth— 21 all the cities of the plain and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses had struck with the princes of Midian: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, who were princes of Sihon dwelling in the country. 22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them. 23 And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages.

Verses 24-28 marked off boundaries for the tribe of Gad. They inherited the land of the Ammonites – east of the Jordan. The modern city of Amman – in the country of Jordan – derives its name from the Ammonites

24 Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad according to their families. 25 Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which is before Rabbah, 26 and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir, 27 and in the valley Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border, as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward. 28 This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and their villages.

Verses 29-32 pinpoint the boundaries for the half tribe of Manasseh that settled to the east and northeast of the Sea of Galilee – in the land of Bashan.

29 Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh; it was for half the tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families: 30 Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities; 31 half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, for half of the children of Machir according to their families. **CLOSE MAP 2**

32 These are the areas which Moses had distributed as an inheritance in the plains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward. 33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them. We learn later the decision to settle outside the Promised land ended up fatal. According to 1 Chronicles 5:26-27 they fall victim to idolatry, and were first to be taken captive by the Assyrians. Apparently, the Jordan was a needed wall of

protection both militarily and spiritually that the 2½ tribes decided to neglect.

Guys, when we settle for second best - rather than go on with God into all He has for us - we make ourselves more vulnerable to danger and temptation. We get right to the brink of blessing – then because it seems hard, or requires more faith - we pull up short. Don't do it. Press on. Enter into all God's goodness!