

- I) V1-5 INTRO: And it came to pass when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things that he sent to Jobab
 - a) Joshua had a strategy of divide and conquer
 - 1) He began in central Israel, taking the cities of Jericho and Ai
 - 2) Then he moved south down past the Dead Sea, taking various cities

- II) NOW: He is ready to conquer the territory to the north
 - a) King Jabin rules a powerful city called Hazor, located north of the Sea of Galilee
 - 1) Ancient Hazor was a powerful and prestigious city in ancient times
 - 2) One source says, concerning the ruins discovered on the site of ancient Hazor: The city also shows signs of having been a magnificent Canaanite city prior to its destruction, with great temples and opulent palaces, split into an upper acropolis, and lower city; the town had been a major Canaanite city

- III) JABIN: Has had ample time to hear of the things that have been going on to his south
 - a) When we begin to estimate that amount of time necessary for the conquest, we see it took years
 - 1) These campaigns actually took, by some estimates, up to seven years
 - 2) By now, news of the conquests has reached the ears of a king in the north

- IV) HIS RESPONSE: Was to develop a coalition to oppose the Jews
 - a) He sent to Jobab king of Madon, outside of Tiberias
 - b) Shimron: a major, fortified city
 - c) Achshaph: Sorcery; fascination:
 - d) Sea of Chinneroth (harp): Sea of Tiberias, Lake of Gennesaret; Sea of Galilee

- V) V3 TO: The Canaanites in the east and in the west the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite
 - a) These people formed an alliance to oppose the invaders
 - 1) They joined their armies at the waters of Merom (the Hula Valley)

- VI) IT IS INTERESTING: How under certain conditions people can actually unite for a common cause
 - a) In this case, it was to preserve their land and way of life
 - 1) They united with a common cause, and that was to resist their enemies

- VII) THIS REMINDS ME: Of something that happened during the time of the prophet Samuel
 - a) Israel went to fight the Philistines, and the first battle ended poorly for Israel: they lost 4,000
 - 1) To secure victory, the Jews brought out the Ark of the Covenant thinking God would help

- VIII) KEY: When the Philistines knew that the Ark was present, panic swept over them
 - a) Interestingly, instead of running they actually had a different reaction
 - 1) 1 Sa 4:9 Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!
 - 2) Believers ought to have such a mindset!

- IX) V6-9 BUT: The Lord said to Joshua Do not be afraid because of them for tomorrow about this time
 - a) These kings were powerful, and they were united in opposition
 - 1) In previous battles, the enemy was not as prepared and determined to oppose them
 - 2) Joshua needed encouragement from the Lord

- I) INTERESTINGLY: These soldiers had already seen God's hand to deliver in action
 - a) Yet God needs to encourage them through Joshua

- 1) Their forces were smaller than the ones arrayed against them: a multitude with chariots
 - 2) Josh 4:13 tells us there were around 40 thousand Israeli soldiers
 - 3) They had their experience, but they needed to trust in their God
- II) IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES: Battles are joined because the enemy resists
- a) In the case of Israel, God had already guaranteed the victory: Israel simply needed to fight
 - 1) Josh 1:5-6 No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
 - 2) God is with us too: we simply need to be willing to fight the good fight of faith
- III) V7-9 SO: Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom
- a) He utilized the tactic of concentrating overwhelming force at high speed
 - 1) This kept them off balance, making it almost impossible to respond effectively
- IV) V10-15 JOSHUA: Turned back at that time and took Hazor and struck its king with the sword
- a) HAZOR: Was the principle city, so in striking Hazor he cut off the head, killing the body
 - 1) He killed all the inhabitants guaranteeing that none would arise to seek retaliation in the future
- V) V11 Then he burned Hazor with fire (which has been verified through archaeological finds)
- a) SOURCE: One archaeological stratum, dating from around 1200 BC, shows signs of catastrophic fire, and cuneiform tablets found at the site refer to monarchs named *Ibni Addi*, where *Ibni* may be the origin of *Yavin (Jabin)*.
- VI) V12-14 SO: All the cities of those kings and all their kings Joshua took and struck with the edge of
- a) After defeating their enemies, Israel took the spoils of war, like at Ai
 - 1) Josh 8:2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it
- VII) V15 AS: The Lord had commanded Moses his servant so Moses commanded Joshua and so Joshua did
- a) KEY: Joshua was a great soldier: spiritual, decisive, courageous, inspirational, and resolute
 - 1) All of these qualities revealed him to be a great leader, one worthy to follow and to trust
- VIII) STILL: What was the key to his greatness
- a) The key was his obedience:
 - 1) What was handed to God from Moses had been delivered to him, and he had obeyed
- IX) HIS OBEDIENCE: To God and faithfulness to what had been handed to him revealed his faith
- a) It also revealed his tremendous character and integrity
 - 1) He was a man under orders, and was faithful to that which was delivered to him
- X) V15 JOSHUA DID: What had been commanded and left nothing undone
- a) He was completely obedient: "Partial obedience is complete disobedience"
 - 1) Oswald Chambers: The golden rule for understanding in spiritual matters is not intellect, but obedience.
 - l) KEY: Growing spiritually is tied up with simple obedience to God's word
 - a) It isn't what we do not understand that is the problem, but what we understand and do not do
 - 1) If we want to grow spiritually, we simply need to learn to obey: to submit to the Lord's Word

- II) JOSHUA'S OBEDIENCE: Gave his leadership credibility
 - a) This was also true in the ministry of Jesus Himself
 - 1) On one occasion, a Roman centurion approached Jesus on behalf of a servant who was ill
 - 2) Jesus said He would come to the man's house to heal the servant
 - 3) Mt 8:8-10 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man *under authority*, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*." When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

- III) JESUS: Was a Man, and was under authority of His Father
 - a) This was evident to others, and even something He would refer to to establish His claims
 - 1) Jn 8:29 The One who sent me is with me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases *Him*

- IV) JOSHUA: Obeyed what God had commanded
 - a) Dt 7:1-2 When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

- V) V16-20 SO JOSHUA: Took all this land the mountain country all the South all the land of Goshen
 - a) Land of Goshen: NW corner of Egypt
 - b) Mt Halak: South of the Dead Sea
 - c) Seir: a mountain range in Jordan, south of the Dead Sea
 - d) Baal Gad: In the north, at the foot of Mt Hermon

- VI) V19 THERE: Was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel except the Hivites
 - a) Obviously this speaks of the Gibeonites who had deceived them into a peace treaty

- VII) V20 FOR: It was of the Lord to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel
 - a) The people of the area were given over to their various sins, not the least being idolatry
 - 1) In yielding to these sins, they voluntarily hardened themselves against God

- VIII) FACT: Their sins actually produced a hardness, an insensibility to God and repentance
 - a) This provided sufficient reason for God to bring judgment
 - 1) Pr 28:14 Happy *is* the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
 - 2) Pr 29:1 He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens *his* neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
 - 3) Ro 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- I) V21-23 AND: At that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains
 - a) QUOTATION: Anakim are a race of giants descended from Anak. They dwelt in the south of the land of Canaan, near Hebron (Gen. 23:2; Josh. 15:13). According to Genesis 14:5-6 they inhabited the region afterwards known as Edom and Moab in the days of Abraham. Their formidable appearance, as described by the Twelve Spies sent to search the land, filled the Israelites with terror. The Israelites seem to have identified

them with the Nephilim, the giants (Gen. 6:4; Num. 13:33 that lived before the flood. Joshua finally expelled them from the land, excepting a remnant that found a refuge in the cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod (Josh. 11:22). The Philistine giants whom David encountered (2 Sam. 21:15-22) were descendants of the Anakim.

II) CH. 12 Gives the names of the kings conquered by Moses and Joshua (V24)