

11/9/03

Joshua 11-14

The people of the land continue to confederate in order to oppose Joshua from possessing the land but it would be useless, for God had given them the land.

11:1-15 The northern conquests of the land.

11:1-5 The northern confederacy.

- 1) This is the third campaign, the northern campaign and the initiator of the united coalition was king Jabin of Hazor. Vs. 1
 - a) The same name occurs in Judges, so it is believed to be a dynastic name assumed by all kings of Hazor.
 - b) All of these kings were north of Hazor.
 - c) Hazor was about ten miles north of the Sea of Galilee and the most imposing city of all, covering about two hundred acres.
- 2) The confederacy was the largest yet to come against Joshua, north and south of Hazor, as far up as Mount Hermon. Vs. 2-3
 - * Chinneroth is the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Taberias, Sea of Gennesareth.

- 3) They were as the sand of the seashore with iron chariots. Vs. 4
 - * The war capability was far superior to that of Israel from the human perspective!
- 4) They all met at Meron, which means “high place”, the lake in northern Canaan. Vs. 5
 - a) This body of water was north of the Sea of Galilee.
 - b) It is no longer present, it has been drained into the Sea of Galilee.

11: 6 The lone opposition.

- 1) But the LORD said to Joshua.
 - a) The word “But” makes all the difference in the world, there is a very sharp contrast of God’s all power and man’s accumulated power.
 - * Joshua had learned from the Gibeonites to confer with God!
 - b) Yahweh encourages Joshua to not be afraid of the multitude.
 - c) Yahweh would deliver the enemy in a twenty-four hour period.
- 2) You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.
 - a) They were not to trust the strength of horses. Ps. 20

- b) They were to disable the horse from being able to stand or run by cutting the tendon or sinew behind the leg.

11:7-9 The destruction of the confederacy.

- 1) The attack was once again by surprise to overwhelm the enemy at the waters of Merom. Vs. 7
* As before. Josh.10:9
- 2) The LORD delivered them to the hand of Israel, having defeated them they chased them northerly towards Sidon, north of Mount Carmel toward Mount Hermon, until they left none of them remaining. Vs. 8
- 3) Joshua obeyed the Lord completely in the war plan, hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots with fire. Vs. 9

11:10-15 The capture of the cities.

- 1) Joshua then turned back and took Hazor, striking Jabin its king with the sword; for he was the initiator of the confederacy and the head of all those kingdoms. Vs. 10
 - a) Having defeated the defending army, now the cities would be less resistant.
 - b) There would be a very small contingent of men left in the cities.

- 2) They destroyed all, none was left that could breathe and burnt the city of Hazor. Vs. 11
 - a) As in previous battles. Josh. 10:40
 - b) Archaeological excavations indicate Hazor was not rebuilt until the time of Solomon. 1King. 9:15
- 3) Joshua did the same to all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. Vs. 12
 - a) The royal cities were those who had their own king. Josh. 10:2
 - b) The work was the work that Moses would of completed had he entered the land.
- 4) But as for the cities that stood on their **mounds**, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned. Vs. 13
 - a) This would allow Israel to occupy them immediately and not have to build them over again.
 - b) This was according to the promises of God. Deut.6:10-11
- 5) And all the spoil of these cities was taken but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing. Vs. 14

- a) They became wealthy as God promised.
 - b) If Achan would not of been so greedy, he would of received more than he took at Jericho!
- 6) Joshua is declared to be completely obedient to the Lord and Moses in all he was commanded. Vs. 15
- a) This regards this particular battle and victory.
 - b) This is not contradiction to the later compromises of Joshua and the people of God.

11:16-23 The list of the land taken.

- 1) Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain--the mountains of Israel and its lowlands, all the way to the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon in the north, at the Lebennese border. Vs. 16-17
 - a) This again is not contradiction to the incomplete taking of the land.
 - b) The land was subjugated and brought under the control of Israel, from the north of Hermon to the south of Goshen in the Negev.
- 2) The battles and wars were long against all those kings but there was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel,

except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. Vs. 18-19

- a) The land was taken progressively.
 - b) The promise was given prior.
 - * “I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.” Ex. 23:29-30
- 3) The reason for the victories. Vs. 20
- a) The LORD to harden their hearts, strengthening their decision, that they should come against Israel in battle, having crossed that line of time for repentance. Ex. 9:12
 - b) The only things left was judgment, 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. Gen. 15:16
 - c) Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again.” Jn. 12:39
- 4) And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim. Vs. 21
- a) They caused them to fear at Kadesh-Barnea and rebel. Num. 13:33, 14:1-2, Deut. 1:19-33, 9:2

- b) The Anakim were giants, they said, “We are as grasshoppers.” Num. 13:33
- 5) None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod. Vs. 22
 - a) The Philistine cities.
 - b) The area of the Gaza strip, on the southern coast.
- 6) 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. Vs. 23
 - a) The inheritance that would be divided up in chapters 13-19.
 - b) The rest in terms of having control and the major battles over.

12:1-24 The list of kings defeated and conquered by Israel.

121-6 The list of kings on east side of Jordan

- 1) These kings were on the east side of the Jordan. Vs. 1
 - * The River Arnon drops 3,500 feet in thirty-eight miles to the Dead Sea.

- 2) King Sihon of the Amorites is the first mentioned with his boundaries. Vs. 2-3
 - a) The defeat is recorded. Num. 21:21-31, Deut. 2:26-37
 - b) The River Jabbok drops 3200 feet as it meanders through the mountains of Gilead.
 - c) Sea of Chinneroth is the Sea of Galilee.
- 3) King Og of Bashan is the second, who was of the remnant of the giants and his boundaries. Vs. 4-5
 - a) His bed measuring 13 1/2 feet by 6 feet wide. Deut. 3:11
 - b) The victory is recorded. Num. 21:33-35, Deut. 3:1-11
- 4) These two kings are said to be conquered by Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel and the land given to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, as their inheritance. Vs. 6
 - a) The lesson is that these kings were in rebellion to God and in refusal to repent.
 - b) The consistent understanding is that God gave Israel the victory and land!

12:7-24 The list of kings an west side of Jordan.

- 1) This conquered land is the one Joshua gave to the children of Israel according to their divisions. Vs. 7
- 2) The five names identify the general population. Vs. 8
- 3) There are thirty-one kings named. Vs. 9-24
 - a) Once again the names are to remind all who read them, that these were real people who existed at one time.
 - b) They were those opposed to God and the people of God.
 - c) They were judged by God and perished in their rebellion.
 - * For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Heb. 10:30-31

13:1-19:51 The distribution of the land of Canaan.

13:1-6 Joshua is called to possess the remaining land.

13:1 God addressed Joshua.

- 1) God told Joshua that he was old and advanced in years. Josh. 23:1-2
 - * Joshua was probably about ninety.

- 2) And there still remained much unpossessed land to be taken.
 - a) Though the land had been given by God, they still needed to go in and possess the land.
 - b) So we in our inheritance in Christ Jesus, it is by faith that we take the areas of the Old Man that wants us to make a covenant with him and tolerate him.
- 3) Remember the divisions of the book of Joshua.
 - A. The entering of the land. Josh. 1-5**
 1. The charge to Joshua and the preparation to cross the Jordan. Josh. 1
 2. The spies sent out to Jericho. Josh. 2
 3. The crossing of the Jordan. Josh. 3
 4. The memorial erected. Josh. 4
 5. The death of the flesh life at Gilgal. Josh. 5
 - B. The defeating of the people of the land. Josh. 6-12**
 1. The conquest of Jericho. Josh. 6
 2. The defeat at Ai due to Achan. Josh. 7
 3. The victory at Ai. Josh. 8
 4. The deceit of the Gibeons. Josh. 9
 5. The conquered kings. Josh. 10-12

C. The distributing of the land. Josh. 13-24

1. The division of Canaan. Josh. 13-19
2. The cities of refuge. Josh. 20
3. The portion of the Levites. Josh. 21
4. The alter of witness. Josh. 22
5. The farewell of Joshua. Josh. 23-24

13:2-6 The land of the Philistines and Phoenicians.

- 1) The Philistines and their five mayor cities. Vs. 2-3
 - a) They were originally from Caphtor “Crete” as par of the migration of the “Sea People” who invaded Egypt and Palestins in 1200 B.C.
 - b) The Romans derived the name Palestine from the Philistines.
- 2) The Canaanites and the Sidonians or Phonecians. Vs. 4-6b
- 3) God says He would drive them out as He promised. Vs. 6c
- 3) Joshua was to divide the land by lots. Vs. 6d-e

13:7-14 The command to divide the land.

- 1) The inheritance of the nine and a half tribes on the west side. Vs. 7

- 2) The two and a half tribes on the east side. Vs. 8
 - * They were the first to go into captivity, to Assyria, desiring to live outside the boundaries of God’s inheritance.
- 3) The boundaries of the kingdom of Sihon and Og. Vs. 9-12
- 4) The children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or Maacharhites but dwelt among them. Vs. 13
 - * This compromise was their fatal mistake, for a little leaven, leavens the whole lump.
- 5) The Levites had no inheritance, the Lord was their inheritance. Vs. 14, 33
 - * Ex. 32:29, 38:21, Num. 3:45

13:15-23 The allotments of the land for Reuben.

- 1) The territories, districts, cities and boundaries on the south. Vs. 15-21, 23-32
- 2) The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them. Vs. 22
 - a) Balaam was hired by King Balak of Moab to curse the children of Israel but could not, for God had blessed them. Num. 22-24

- b) Balaam's council was to introduce pagan sexual worship to Israel and God would destroy them Himself. Num. 25:1-15, 31:8, Josh. 24:9-10
* Neh. 13:2, Mic. 6:5, 2Pet. 2:15, Jude 11, Rev. 2:14

3) According to their families. Vs. 23

13:24-28 The allotment of the land to Gad.

- 1) They occupied the central region of the trans-Jordan to the edge of the Sea of Galilee, east of the Jordan. Vs. 24-27
- 2) According to their families. Vs. 28

13:29-31 The allotment of land to Manasseh.

- 1) To the half tribe of Manasseh, according to their families. Vs. 29
- 2) The area north of the Trans-Jordan. Vs. 30-31

13:32-33 The summary for the two and a half tribes.

- 1) The area declared and identified. Vs. 32
- 2) The Levites had no inheritance. Vs. 33

14:1-5 The introductory of the division.

- 1) The particular area of their inheritance in the land of Canaan is declared to be distributed by Eleazar the priest, Joshua and the heads of the fathers marking the unity of the nation. Vs. 1

* The names are given. Num. 34:16-29

2) Their inheritance were designated by God by the hand of Moses, through lots for the nine and a half tribes. Vs. 2

* Num. 27:21, 34:2-17, 26:55, 33:54

a) The land would be distributed by tribe, family and individual by the sovereign choice of God.

b) Complaints and objections would be minimized, being thankful.

c) The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD. Prov. 16:33

3) The other two and a half tribes took their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan but the Levites received no inheritance of land. Vs. 3-4

a) The sons of Joseph comprised two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, replacing Joseph and Levi. Gen. 48:5

b) The Levites received cities to dwell in, with their common-lands, livestock and property. Num. 35:2

4) The command was carried out according to the words of Yahweh. Vs. 5

a) Equitable.

b) impartial.

c) Unprovoking.

14:6-15 The request of Caleb.

14:6-9 The past promise to Caleb was remembered.

- 1) Caleb recalled to Joshua the promise of God to him and Joshua, when they spied out the land. Vs. 6
 - a) The place was Gilgal, the encampment of the army of Israel.
 - b) The tribe of Judah came to Joshua.
 - c) Caleb had an interesting heritage.
 - 1)) Caleb was the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite
 - 2)) The Kenizzite identified Caleb as being of the leading Edomite family of Eliphaz, Esau's first son. Gen. 36:11, 15, 42
* The name of a tribe is referred to in the covenant God made with Abraham, as one of the inhabitant of the land. Gen. 15:19
 - 3)) Caleb the son of Jephunneh of the tribe of Judah. Num. 13:6, Josh. 15:17
 - 4) Caleb should not be confused with two other men with the same name.
 - a)) One of the three sons of Hezron of the tribe of Judah who is also called Chelubai. 1Chron. 2:9
* His descendants are enumerated. 1Chron. 2:18, 42

b)) Caleb the “son of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah”. 1Chron. 2:50

- d) Caleb said to Joshua, “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.” Num. 14:6-9, 24, 30
* Caleb was another man of faith but not by birth, who acted more like an Israelite than the ten Israelites that gave the evil report!
- 2) Caleb recalls Joshua of his personal faithfulness in the mission. Vs. 7
 - a) He reminds Joshua of his age, “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land”. Vs. 7a
 - b) He reminds Joshua of his report, “And I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.” Vs. 7b
* Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.” Num. 13:30
- 3) Caleb recalls to Joshua the unfaithfulness of the other ten spies. Vs. 8
 - a) He marks the discouragement to produced, “Nevertheless my brethren

who went up with me made the heart of the people melt.” Vs. 8a

* Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD-- because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.” Num. 14:21-23

b) He marks the distinction from them, “But I wholly followed the LORD my God.” Vs. 8b

* “But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.” Num. 14:24

4) He recalls the promise of Moses. Vs. 9

a) The promise was perpetual, “So Moses swore on that day, saying, `Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever.” Vs. 9a-c

* Num. 14:21-24, Deut. 1:35

b) The promise was for personal faithfulness, “Because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.” Vs. 9d

14:10-11 The present perspective of the promise by Caleb was reclaimed.

1) Caleb had not grown weary through time. Vs. 10

a) He attributed his well being to God, “And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive”. Vs. 10a

b) He attests to being patient with enduring hope, “As He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness.” Vs. 10b-c

1)) All over twenty years of age died in the wilderness.

2)) For thirty-eight years they wondered, it has been forty-five years, he is eighty-five, it had been about seven years they had been conquering the land!

c) He attests to his endurance, “And now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.” Vs. 10b-c

2)) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is

perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor. 4:16-18

- 3)) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Gal. 6:9
- 4)) But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. 2Thess. 3:13
- 2) Caleb had not grown weak through age and time. Vs. 11
 - a) He gave witness to his physical ability, "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then." Vs. 11a-b
 - b) He gave witness of his willingness to defeat the enemy, "So now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in." Vs. 11c
- 1)) The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I

am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him. Ps. 28:7

- 2)) A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Ps. 33:17
- 3)) But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their **strength**; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Is. 40:31

14:12-15 The future possession of the promise by Caleb was realized.

- 1) Caleb did not allow the difficulties to intimidate or hinder his obedience, "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. Vs. 12a-d
- 2) Caleb was still walking by faith, thrusting God for what He had promised, "It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." Vs. 12
* He drove them out. Jos. 15:14
- 3) Caleb was given the land promised at the appropriate time. Vs. 13

- a) And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh”. Vs. 13a-b
- b) Joshua gave it to Caleb as an inheritance. Vs. 13b
- 4) Caleb was given the land promised for his commitment to God. Vs. 14
 - a) Caleb served God with a complete heart. Vs. 14
 - b) Caleb savored the complete favor of God. Vs. 15
- 1)) For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2Cor. 1:20
- 2)) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2Cor. 7:1
- 3)) That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb 6:12
- 4)) By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2Pet. 1:4