

Joshua 09-12 • Chapter Study

INTRO

As we come to ch9, the mighty, seemingly impregnable fortress of Jericho has been miraculously defeated.

The Archaeology of Jericho

Archaeologist John Garstang excavated the site of Jericho from 1930-36.

He established that Jericho fell right around 1400 BC.

This would place the Exodus some time around 1440-45 BC, a date which fits perfectly with what we know about Egypt.

This was the period of the Amarna Age of Egypt, when the Pharaohs led Egypt on a period of *intense introspection* and *internal religious reforms*.

They *neglected* their empire holdings outside their borders, including their interests in Canaan.

The Amarna Letters show that during this time, the Canaanites sent requests to Egypt for help in repelling an invasion of what they called the “Habiru” (Hebrew), but Egypt ignored the pleas.

The Amarna Ltrs were written by \kings of \numerous Canaanite city-states to 2 of the Pharaohs of Egypt.

The picture these letters paint of the situation in Canaan parallels the account in Joshua to a tee.

The *Stēlē* [steelee] *of Pharaoh Merneptah* dated 1230 BC tells of his invasion into Canaan as the Egyptians sought to re-extend their borders into territory they previously dominated.

The stēlē mentions that the Hebrews were then settled in the land.

So the conquest of Canaan by Israel had to have occurred well before that.

Garstang found evidence of the destruction of Jericho by Joshua.

The city had been built on the mound formed by previous generations of occupation.

It was surrounded by a double wall, 30’ tall.

The outer wall was 6’ thick, the inner 12’ w/ a 15’ space btwn them.

The city was so crowded they’d built homes *between* the walls, just as we read of Rahab’s house.

Garstang found evidence that the walls had fallen outward and tumbled down the sides of the mound the city was built on.

This entire layer of occupation was burned, showing the city had been razed by fire.

But massive food stores were found in the ruins.

Unusual since such stores would normally be spoils to the victor.

Not in this case since God had given strict instructions they were to take nothing from the city but metal that could be melted down.

Garstang’s conclusion was that the archaeology of Jericho lined up perfectly with the Biblical account.

Kathleen Kenyon excavated the site 20 yrs later & concluded Jericho had been defeated at least 200 yrs *before* Joshua’s time.

But she advocated a much later date for the Exodus.

The archaeology indicates Jericho remained a ruin till around 900BC when 1Kings16 says it was rebuilt by Hiel.
Ch9

¹ And it came to pass when all the kings who *were* on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—heard *about it*, ² that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.

The Canaanites realized they need to do something quick.

Whereas before Israel’s arrival, their alliances set them in leagues against each other, now they unite against the common foe.

But before they’re able to make good on their agreement, Israel will complete its campaign to cut the land in 2 from N to S.

While most of the Canaanites opposed Israel, 1 group took Rahab’s approach and decided to try a different tactic. Forge an alliance *with* Israel.

³ But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they worked *craftily*, and went and *pretended* to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, ⁵ old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry *and* moldy. ⁶ And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.”

These were *Hivites* who lived in *Gibeon*, a city a few miles NW of Jerusalem.

The Hivites were one of the many Canaanite peoples.

Gibeon was a lead city-state of a 4-city confederacy. [9:17]

These guys broke ranks with the rest of the Canaanites and decided to side **with** Israel.

But word had gone out Israel was under a directive by God to wipe out the Canaanites and make no alliance with them.

The only way they could secure a peace treaty was by **deception**.

So they made it look as though they came from a great distance by taking old bread, battered clothes, and worn out supplies.

⁷ Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?”

The men of Israel realized this might be a deception. That’s an important detail to take note of.

⁸ But they said to Joshua, “We are your servants.” And Joshua said to them, “Who are you, and where do you come from?” ⁹ So they said to him: “From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that He did to the 2 kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth. ¹¹ Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, “We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us.”’ ¹² This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. ¹³ And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey.” ¹⁴ Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.

These Gibeonites do a **masterful** job with their deception. // It fooled Joshua & the elders.

Their failure was in not consulting God. // They ought have.

These elders had an early premonition they were being played.

But instead of following thru on their suspicions by asking God for wisdom, they went with the evidence their senses fixed on.

Instead of walking by faith, they walked by sight.

Sadly, we all do this. // Why bother God when the conclusion is obvious?

Question: Is it possible to BUG or BOTHER God?

Common sense often trumps discernment.

But hindsight sometimes shows the sense in common sense rests on a fiction.

We have an enemy whose quite skilled at fake news and false evidence.

Walking in the Spirit means the moment-by-moment sensitivity to follow the Lord’s direction, taking nothing for granted.

Even **IF** these guys **HAD BEEN** from a distant land, Israel’s leaders ought to have consulted God about entering into an alliance.

¹⁵ So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. ¹⁶ And it happened at the end of 3 days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them. ¹⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the 3rd day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. ¹⁸ But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

After the fiasco at Ai because 1 knucklehead disobeyed, they’re worried **THIS** faux pax is *majorly no bueno*.

Their leaders have royally messed-up.

So, Joshua grabbed his phone and tweeted a quick condemnation of the elders.

One of them from a different political party appeared on *The View*, calling Joshua dangerous; a loose cannon.

News outlets weighed in with reports of corruption & a call for the appointment of a Special prosecutor to see if the Gibeonites had colluded with the elders.

No. They admit they messed up & come up with a resolution.

¹⁹ Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. ²⁰ This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them.” ²¹ And the rulers said to them, “Let them live, but let them be

woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them.”

While Israel would make good on their oath not to kill the Gibeonites, they’d be made into a workforce of manual labor.

²² Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, “Why have you deceived us, saying, ‘We *are* very far from you,’ when you dwell near us? ²³ Now therefore, you *are* cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.” ²⁴ So they answered Joshua and said, “Because your servants were clearly told that the Lord your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. ²⁵ And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us.” ²⁶ So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. ²⁷ And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.

In ch10, the Gibeonites become the trigger by which God gives Israel victory over the S’n half of Israel.

An alliance of 5 kings moves to punish Gibeon for refusing to join their confederacy.

Israel comes to their defense and ends up conquering those kings and their city-states.

What’s the lesson is all this for us? What does Gibeon represent?

The Sin we ought to conquer, but it manages to stay alive because it’s so stinking sneaky.

So, we turn it into something profitable.

We ***use its presence*** as a reminder to be on guard against the deceitfulness of sin.

Yeah! We ***make*** it a spiritual servant.

Fred’s tended to be negative, critical.

He knew it was wrong but couldn’t get a handle on it.

His negativity often disguised itself as sarcasm and witty put-downs that seemed funny at first but he knew were more like poisoned arrows.

He saw how his remarks often hurt people.

The HS began to convict Fred of his critical attitude.

He realized it’s difficult asking for God’s blessing when his mouth often spoke a curse.

So, every time a negative thought rose and wanted to fire off some hurtful remark, he paused, & edited his speech so that he spoke a blessing rather than a curse.

The inner attitude of negativity is still there; but it’s become a prompt to righteousness rather than sin.

And slowly but surely it’s diminishing.

The Central & Southern Campaign Ch. 10

Ch10 commences the chronicle of Israel’s conquests with a record of the Southern Campaign.

¹ Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it—as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king—and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, ² that they feared greatly, because Gibeon *was* a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it *was* greater than Ai, and all its men *were* mighty. ³ Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, ⁴ “Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.” ⁵ Therefore the 5 kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

These 5 S’n city-states considered Gibeon part of their confederacy.

Gibeon’s defection was a huge setback.

1st: It was the loss of an important ally & gave Israel even more land; more fronts to attack from.

2nd: Other City-States might get the same idea and defect as well.

These 5 realized they needed to send a clear msg ASAP – don’t defect or we’ll getcha’.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us.” ⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

It’s a 3,300 ft climb over a distance of 20 miles from Gilgal to Gibeon.

For armed men double-timing it, that’s a hike of about 6-7 hours.

⁸ And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.” ⁹ Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ So the Lord routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

[Show map]

¹¹ And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

Here’s God, keeping His promise.

He said He’d go before them and fight for them. Here’s how He does it.

He marshals the forces of nature & drops massive chunks of ice on them.

It’s a fitting form of God’s assistance because the Canaanites worshipped nature deities;

God’s & goddesses they believed controlled the weather.

Their chief deity, Ba’al, was both the storm god & god of war.

So being pelted by lethal hail meant he’d been benched & Yahweh, Israel’s God was in charge.

If killing hail seems far-fetched, check this out . . .

In Feb, 2002, over 50 died in a Bolivian hailstorm.

In ‘78 a hailstorm spewing **baseball** sized hail killed more than 200 sheep in Montana.

A ‘53 hailstorm in Alberta, Canada killed some 36K ducks.

Another storm a few days later killed another 30K.

So: While lethal hail isn’t unheard of, what happens next IS!

¹² Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” ¹³ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. *Is this not written in the Book of Jasher?* So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day. ¹⁴ And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

The battle began in the morning at Gibeon.

As the Amorites retreated *W* along the road to Beth Horon, the hours passed.

This region affords many excellent hiding places from which to stage an ambush.

If the light failed, the enemy would be able to set up and attack.

So Joshua asked for the day to be prolonged.

Sure enough; the sun halted in its passage through the sky.

There was a story that made the rounds when I was a young believer that said NASA was doing computations in preparation for the Apollo program.

They wanted to make sure they knew where all the celestial bodies would be.

To find out where things in the sky **WOULD** be, they first ran the numbers backward to see where they were.

Low and behold, the heavens were out of their expected positions by a little more than a day.

A Christian working for NASA then remembered **this story** in Joshua and how later King Hezekiah asked that the sun go back 10 degrees.

So the missing time in NASA’s calculations was accounted for, **thus verifying the Biblical record!**

The guy who told that story created quite a stir and sold a lot of books.

Then it was discovered **he’d made the whole thing up.**

No such computations had ever been done by NASA or anyone else.

We don’t know **how** the sun stood still, **but it did.**

There may have been a change to the earth’s rotational rate due to any one of a number of cosmic events.

There might have been a **polar shift** as there’s plenty evidence from geology.

The lengthened period of light may have been due to some strange **refractive** quality in the atmosphere.

The hailstones suggests something highly unusual with the environment was going on.

The point is; in v8, God told Joshua he’d secure a stunning victory.

When he saw the hailstones, he was emboldened to make a huge request, and God did it.

The **lesson** is this: When God’s already told us the outcome, & we **see** Him at work, move out & join Him.

But be careful to take note that Joshua first stepped out in faith at God's prompting.

God spoke, Joshua moved out, **THEN** things began to happen.

V13 mentions the Book of Jashar.

As best we can tell, this was a collection of poetic songs honoring Israel's leaders that's been lost to time.

¹⁵ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

This is the **short** version of the battle. // Vs16-43 are the **long**.

¹⁶ But these 5 kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

Their fighting force in utter disarray, these 5 city-state rulers abandoned their men & hide-out.

¹⁷ And it was told Joshua, saying, "The 5 kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." ¹⁸ So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. ¹⁹ And do not stay *there* yourselves, *but* pursue your enemies, and attack their rear *guard*. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand."

This wasn't a chess game: Take the king and win.

Once the Canaanites made it back to their cities, disgusted with their old rulers for leading them into such a disaster, then bailing on them, they'd just pick a new guy to rule.

But once they made it back to the safety of their cities, defeating them would be far more difficult.

So Joshua wisely didn't allow his men to get side-tracked by the kings in the cave.

They needed to keep the pressure on the retreating force.

Only a few managed to make it back.

²⁰ Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. ²¹ And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

The hailstones & then the stopping of the sun & moon, which were 2 of the chief deities worshipped by the Canaanites, caused the people of the land to be in total awe of Israel.

²² Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those 5 kings to me from the cave." ²³ And they did so, and brought out those 5 kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon. ²⁴ So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks.

Joshua wants his men to understand the extent of the victory God's given them.

This was a picture of **total domination**.

These 5 guys were the mightiest in all S'n Canaan.

Where are they now? Under Israel's foot.

Flashback 40 yrs when Joshua & Caleb told their parents at Kadesh Barnea these kings were no match for Israel.

They'd refused to listen & rebelled against God, refusing to go up and take the land.

40 yrs of wasted wandering This was a huge, "I told you so" moment for Joshua & Caleb.

When Israel balked & blinked at Kadesh Barnea, they said, "The Canaanites are too fierce. They will defeat us and take our children."

Moses said, "No! It's your children who'll defeat the Canaanites you're scared of."

Well – here they are, just as Moe said.

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." ²⁶ And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on 5 trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening. ²⁷ So it was at the time of the going down of the sun *that* Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, *which remain* until this very day.

In vs28-39 we read about Israel's conquest of the S.

He took the cities of . . .

- Makkedah
- Libnah
- Lachish
- Eglon
- Hebron

- Debir

⁴⁰ So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded. ⁴¹ And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. ⁴² All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel. ⁴³ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

The S from the Negev to the center of Israel has now been conquered.

But it hasn't been divided up among the tribes yet. That comes later; after they've conquered the N.

They're all staying at Gilgal on the vast plain just W of the Jordan.

The Gaza strip on the coast is still occupied by the Philistines.

The Northern Campaign • Ch11

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, ² and to the kings who *were* from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, [**Galilee**] in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 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.

Hazor like Jericho, was a massive fortress dominating its region.

Jericho was the lead city-state of the S; Hazor was the lead of the N.

When Jabin, its king, heard the S had fallen, he knew he needed to activate the N'n alliance.

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.

Merom is a few miles NW of Galilee which means Israel had already marched into the N'n territory.

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." 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 [**Miz-ref-oth**], and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining.

This is way up into modern Lebanon. // [Show map]

⁹ So Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

Question: Why not keep these as a prize, as spoils of war?

A horse was the ancient world's version of the fighter jet. A chariot was their tank.

Why not hang on to these valuable weapons?

We answer that by asking another question?

What did Israel attribute their victories to now?

Their amazing military prowess or God's aid?

Sports analogy – don't check out.

Many of us around here like baseball. We're Dodger fans.

Some of us know a lot about the sport & while we're fans, we can be pretty harsh critics.

We grouse about pitchers and hitters when they aren't performing to expectations and to justify their multi-million \$ contracts.

So while we sit in comfort, watching a game on TV, judging this pitch, that at bat.

The FACT is, **WE** could not **DO** what we're demanding **THEY** do.

So: Imagine MLB came to CCO & said, "Put together a team & play \SF Giants at Dodger Stadium Fri night.

We show up, no uniforms; borrowed gloves & bats.

An hr before game time, we figure the **ONLY** thing we can do is to have a prayer meeting.

Forget batting practice; it ain't gonna' help.

We cast ourselves in total desperation on God.

We have not a particle of hope we'll win; we just don't; want to be the laughing stock of an entire

nation.

Game time, we head out to the field.

You're the pitcher. // You wind up and hurl A 102 mph fastball right down the middle. // Strike 1.

Your 2nd pitch is a wicked curve that starts out 3 ft off the plate but at the last moment clips the back outside corner of the plate – Strike 2!

Your 3rd pitch is a slider that sinks under the batter's swing, missing by 4 inches – Strike 3.

You go on to KO the next to 2 batters.

Then it's our turn to hit against Baumgartner; the Giants ace.

We score 7 runs – and go on to win the game 23 to 0!

Back in the team room after the game, what do we attribute our victory to?

Where do we **KNOW**, **without a doubt** our ability came from?

There's one source for that win: God and our total dependence on Him.

Will uniforms make us better players?

Will sponsorships from all the sporting good companies help?

Professional coaches?

No! In fact, **any** of that is just going to **build a fiction** we're great BB players.

It's material trappings that begin tweaking our perception of who and what we are.

We start thinking of ourselves as MLB players. We aren't.

We're just children of an awesome God.

Israel weren't warriors. They were farmers & shepherds in covenant with a mighty & awesome God.

Horses and chariots are the domain of professional warriors.

The men of Israel needed to stay desperate and dependent on God.

Taking on these spoils would have undercut that dependence.

David understood this and wrote in Psalm 20:7

Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; **But we** will remember the name of the Lord our God.

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. 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, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, *which* Joshua burned.

Hazor was located 9 miles N of the Sea of Galilee.

It straddled the main international highway connecting Egypt and Asia.

Hazor shows up in several ancient records as a city Egypt wanted to either control or have friendly relations with.

It was a center of the tin trade for the entire ME. [Explain: Bronze]

Besides Jericho, John Garstang also excavated Hazor and found right around 1400 BC, it too was destroyed.

Archaeology confirms a major cultural change in the other cities of Canaan at this time.

Jericho, Ai, & Hazor are the only ones destroyed by fire, just as the Bible says.

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.

Garstang and other archaeologists like Yigal Yadin discovered many temples in Hazor.

It was a center of the abominable religion that sent the Canaanites into a death spiral.

¹⁶ Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country,

The central highlands.

all the South,

The Negev, that region S of Israel that's a large open wilderness.

all the land of Goshen,

The pastoral region rising from the Negev to the central highlands.

the lowland, and the Jordan plain—the mountains of Israel and its lowlands,
This describes the land from W to E.

The Shephelah, central hills, & Jordan valley.

¹⁷ from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon.

Landmarks from S to N.

He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them. ¹⁸ Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

“those” meaning all the REST of the local rulers.

While the initial campaigns were concluded quickly, they only went after the main city-states.

There were dozens of smaller cities and towns that had to be taken.

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. 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.

We’ve already talked about this hardening of their hearts.

God isn’t some sadistic monster who enjoy raining wrath on the heads of the innocent.

On the contrary; He’s full of mercy and wants to forgive.

He looks for any opening to do just that.

But mercy is an offer with a time limit.

If people **refuse** to repent, despite all God’s efforts to woo & win them, they sin themselves INTO judgment.

That’s what the Canaanites had done; and as archaeology affirms.

When it says God hardened them; it doesn’t mean they WANTED to repent but He wouldn’t let them.

It means He withdrew his Spirit and the persuasion the Spirit brings.

*There is a point we know not **when**, a line we know not **where**.*

*That marks the destiny of **men** ‘twixt sorrow and **despair**.*

*There is a line, and once it’s **crossed**, // God has sworn in all His love, all is **lost**.*

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.

The Anakim were the giants of whom Goliath was a descendant.

As we read here, while Joshua removed them from the Land of Israel, they continued on in the region of the Philistines in Gaza along the coast.

These verses are an **overview** of the conquest.

We’re not to think Joshua **personally** went out & took on the Anakim single-handedly.

He **oversaw** the conquest of these regions and these peoples.

As we’ll see, it was others who actually did the fighting.

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.

The Defeated Kings • Ch. 12

Ch12 is a list of the 31 kings and their city-states Israel conquered.