

Jehovah to the Rescue ... Again!

I. **Announce:**

A. **Welcome** to those watching online.

B. **Slide1 Christmas Eve services** - Our services are at 9am & 11am, 5 & 7pm.

1. At our evening services, we will have a few special surprises. All 4 services will be *family services* (kids in w/us). We'll have a candle lighting & the same Christmas message. Please join us as we celebrate *God w/Us*.

C. **Slide2 Prayer:** (UNLV mass shooting)

II. **Slide3 Intro:** *Jehovah to the Rescue ... Again!*

A. Is 52:10 *The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

1. **Q:** What imagery comes to mind when you hear that? (Arm/strength)

B. **Slide4 MAP:** of Joshua's conquest of *Northern Canaan*.

III. **Slide5-8 JOSHUA CONQUERERS THE NORTH (Ch.11) READ 1-15;16,20,23**

A. **Big Idea:** No risk is too great when it is *based on the promise of God*.

B. **Slide9 (1,10) I love archeology:** Ongoing archaeological excavations at the city of **Hazor**, have substantiated the Bible's claim that **Hazor**, had been *the head of all these kingdoms* (10).

1. It was 200 acres inside. This walled city in Joshua's day was more than **10 times larger** than any other Canaanite city. It probably held 30,000 people. They traded in **tin**, a commodity necessary in the manufacture of **bronze**. Recent excavations have uncovered the magnificent Canaanite palace, located at the highest spot of Hazor. And testify to its *destruction by an intense fire* (11).

2. (13) **Mounds** - in archaeology a **Tel** (from Arabic: تَلّ, tall, *mound or small hill*) is an artificial mound consisting of the accumulated and stratified

debris of a succession of consecutive settlements at the same site.
Layers of civilization. [Tel-Aviv, hill of the spring]

3. **Slide10,11 See** Tel Megiddo & Bet Shean.

C. **Slide12** (4) **Great horde, number like the sand of the seashore, very many horses & chariots.**

1. There is no need for us to be disturbed as to the **number & power** of our enemies. *More are those that are with us than those that are against us.*

2. Rm.8:31 *If **God is for us, who can be against us?** Lit. **who is against us?***

D. **Slide13** (6) The Canaanite war machine was **vastly superior** to Israel. **But** Joshua's fears were removed by **the Lord's promise**.

E. **Why would God hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire?**

1. To hamstring an animal means to **cripple it** by severing the large tendon at the back of the knee on the hind legs. A hamstrung horse was disabled to the extent that it was **ineffective for further military action**. **It was often used to prevent those horses from being used against them at a later time.** [track/tank. Afghanistan?] **But I believe there is another reason ...**

2. David later would say in Ps 20:7 **Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**

F. (15) **He left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses -**

1. By leaving nothing undone, God's people experience rest.

2. Ignoring, disobeying, or excluding anything God asks of us **will rob us of peace, satisfaction, and spiritual progress.**

a) **No risk is too great when it is based on the sovereign promise of God!**

G. **Slide14a** (20) **For it was the Lord's doing** - we fight for Him.

1. **Hardening of the heart** - sounds fatalistic! **But** it's God having enough, and finally **letting man have his own way.**

2. The Canaanites, like Pharaoh, were in the end provoked to go further on their already self-chosen evil way. This brought their **judgment to a head.**

H. **Slide14b Striking Facts:** Israel was 1st *forwarded* by **miracles**, **but now** left to make their own way. [Q: name miracles so far in Joshua? Jericho. 5 kings of North: hailstones/sun]

1. **So the war** carried on against **Satan's kingdom** was at 1st advanced by special miracles, **but** being sufficiently proved by them to be **of God**, **we** are now left to the ordinary assistance of *divine Grace in Christ* in the use of *the Sword of the Spirit*, and need not look for **hailstones**, nor the **standing still of the sun**.

I. **Lesson:** *Taking all the territories of your life*. (Not *naming & claiming*, I'm thinking areas we are more or less **still allowing our enemy** to have a *beachhead* in)

1. It would be so easy to **stop** at the major cleanup efforts of the heartland & south, **and** not head north.

J. **Recap, what do we learn from this?** This *Northern United Resistance*, led by Jabin, king of Hazor, was a formidable force, as Israel was "*outgunned*" *outmaneuvered*, and *outnumbered*. **But** God assured Joshua that he would *win the battle*, and he did.

1. **God assures us before the battle** (6), **fights for us during the battle** (8), and **command us after the battle** (9,15). Warren Wiersbe, *With The Word*.

a) **The gospel is what God has done**, not what **you have done**, specifically, *through the work of Jesus*.

b) **The gospel is** the startling news, that what **God demands from us**, **He provides for us**.

IV. **Slide15 MOSES AND JOSHUA, CONQUER EAST AND WEST (Ch.12)** *READ 1,6,7,24.*

A. **Big Idea:** God is praised when we *review* what has been accomplished.

B. **Kings Defeated by Moses** (1-6)

C. **Now we look back to Moses** (East of Jordan river for the 2 1/2 tribes).

D. **Slide16** Why this detailed listing of kings? Why name such precise landmarks? Why are incidents that happened years before repeated here?

1. This **list** is *a living picture of the goodness of God*¹.
 2. There is a **basic lesson** for God's people to learn. God is praised, and His people are encouraged when we **review** what has been accomplished.
 3. These descriptions are also important because they make it clear that **these things happened at a real time, and in real places**. These are not fairy tales that begin with "once upon a time," this is **history** that begins with **specific places and people and rulers**. David Guzik
 4. When we *itemize blessings* it honors God and encourages His people.
- E. **Moses the servant of the Lord** - I like that Joshua doesn't forget to look into the rearview mirror of life, to those that came before him, to those who paved the way for his victories, and is able to honor them. (twice!) [actually 4 x's, 11:13,15]

F. **Kings Defeated by Joshua** (7-24)

G. (13) **Mounds** - in archaeology a what? (Tel)

H. **Recap:** Joshua conquered the whole land, and did it to provide each Israelite with his own inheritance from the Lord (re-read 11:23).

1. God helped him defeat **31 kings**, claim **their land**, and lay claim to **their wealth** for the Lord and His people.
2. **Slide 17** Our Joshua, **Jesus**, the Son of God, **(1)** has defeated every spiritual enemy, and now reigns in heaven.

a) Eph. 1:19-23 *I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else - not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And*

¹ John Calvin

the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

3. Through **Him**, we can **(2) reign in life and claim the victory**.

a) Rom.5:17 *For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the one man Jesus Christ.*

I. Given the bloody nature of the warfare described in these chapters, **what do you learn about God's resolve to conquer sin for us** so that we might enjoy **rest with Him**? What *spiritual enemies* still need to be **purged from your life**?

J. Keywords: conflict, promises.