

WHEN GOD GRANTS VICTORY

Joshua 10-12

How do WE deal with the adversaries in our life?

When the enemy is determined to cause us to fall—to destroy us?

What do we do? How do WE handle those who place obstacles in our way?

Those who want to trip us up and remove us from the competition?

DOMINATION OF THE LAND 6-12 CONQUEST

Defeat of Jericho 6

Sin of Achan 7

Destruction of Ai 8

VICTORY OVER SOUTHERN CANAAN 9-10

As Israel prepares for encounter with southern Canaanites, local peoples exhibit **two contrasting responses**:

Deception by Gibeon 9

Allied opposition to Israel 9:1-2

Deceitful submission to Israel 9:3-13

Joshua again fails to consult God!

While they are criticized for their deception, they are nevertheless preserved.

In the future they will be identified with God's people—and blessed because of them.

They are *servants*—but they share the blessing of God on Israel!

Defeat of southern alliance 10

When southern cities hear what Gibeon did, they form an alliance to attack Gibeon.

Other kings were worried about Gibeon.

It was a significant city—bigger than Ai—Their men were good fighters 2

The handwriting is on the wall.

An arc has been completed from Jericho to Ai to Gibeon.

Jerusalem is next in line!

Their king panics and organizes a powerful alliance.

They make an alliance to attack Gibeon 3-5

They are a threat to the rest.

Southern alliance attacks Gibeon. 10:1-8

Gibeon calls on Israel for help. 6

Joshua's previous failure to consult God obligates Israel to fight for Gibeon. 7

God promises to give them victory. 8

"Don't be afraid of them!"

"I have given them into your hands."

"Not one will stand against you."

Southern alliance faces God's alliance 10:9-21

This might appear to be a simple military confrontation.

But God makes clear that He's in charge.

Israel has to fight,

but the battle BELONGS to the Lord!

GOD gives them victory!

God causes confusion among the armies of the enemy alliance. **10**

The territory is the right size for one small country.

These are independent city-states—each with its own king.

Confusion develops naturally—their armies are used to competing

They only form an alliance to fight a common enemy.

It may have looked like a basketball team of super-stars—independent, individualists—each looking out for their own interests.

Great stars, but not accustomed to cooperating with each other.

As they try to escape, Israel pursues them and cuts them down along the road.

God controls the weather (hail) **11**

He pelts them with large hailstones.

More die from the hail than die by the swords of the Israelites!

God controls the sun. 12-15 **12-13**

The Lord hands them over to Israel.

They don't have enough time to kill them all before nightfall

Joshua calls on God to make the sun stand still.

God stops it from going down!

We don't know HOW God did it, nor exactly WHAT God did.

He isn't saying that the sun goes around the earth, any more than we are when we talk about the sunrise or sunset.

All we know is that somehow the sunlight stayed in place for a day (at least where they were!)

Only GOD knows how He worked it out. We can take His word for it.

We won't try to explain how God worked out all the details.

But—trust me—if God could make it, He can work around it!

The author realizes that this isn't regular science!

No one has ever seen anything like this before (or since!).

It's obvious that GOD IS FIGHTING FOR ISRAEL! **14**

God gives them victory. **19**

He delivers the armies into their hands. 16-21

They trap the kings in a cave until they finish destroying their armies.

Southern kings and cities are destroyed.

After defeating their armies, Joshua comes back to get the kings.

Death of five kings 10:22-27

The death of the five kings is used as an object lesson for the armies of Israel: **25**

Don't be afraid. Be strong.

Don't be discouraged. Be courageous.

This is what God is going to do to ALL the armies that oppose you!

TRUST GOD FOR VICTORY!

Throughout these three chapters, Joshua's trust in God is evident.

He isn't afraid to take on this army (or the next one!)
because he knows God will give them the victory as He promised.

Destruction of remaining southern cities 10:28-43

God delivers the rest of the southern region into Joshua's hand also.

Seven cities are mentioned (including 3 of the original 5)

Repeatedly states "**The Lord hands them over.**" **30, 32**

Joshua subdues the whole region—the south **40**

Joshua leaves no survivors, as the Lord commanded. [= "take no prisoners!"]

This theme is repeated over and over again in chapters 10-12 (**green underline**)

The city-states of the Canaanites, like the people in Noah's day, and like Sodom and Gomorrah, had reached the limit of God's patience.

God could have used fire and brimstone again, to destroy their perverse lifestyle.

God chose to use HIS PEOPLE as His instrument of judgment—but He is just as determined to eliminate their perverse lifestyle.

God's people identify with Him and take a stand for godliness.

There can be no compromise.

God will not allow the perverse influence to remain in their midst. *It has to go!*

WE can no more make ourselves comfortable in the midst of the perverse lifestyle in our day than they could.

We aren't a nation, with national borders to protect from perversion,

As God's people, we still identify with Him and take a stand for godliness, or we'll be dragged down along with the rest of our perverse society.

"If God doesn't judge our generation, He's going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah! (AND to the Canaanites!)"

God WON'T have to apologize!! God will do what's right!

Could it be that the reason we struggle over God's severity with Canaanites is because we don't realize how perverted and detestable their lifestyle is in God's eyes?

Could it be that we don't realize how detestable OUR society has become in His sight?

Joshua defeats them all in one campaign because **the Lord fights for Israel.**

41

Two of the principal cities in the alliance are *excluded* from the list of cities destroyed: Jerusalem (who formed the alliance) and Jarmuth.

Jerusalem remains a thorn in their side, until David conquers the city centuries later.

VICTORY OVER NORTHERN CANAAN 11:1-15

Northern Alliance Attacks Israel

When kings of north hear what Israel did in the south,
they too fear the Israelites,

1-5 **4-5**

Fear drives them to fight

they don't acknowledge God's greatness and submit to Him
(*unlike* Rahab and the Gibeonites—same evidence; different response!).
they form a massive alliance to defeat Israel.

Not only are their numbers impressive; they have large numbers of horses and chariots.

This is an *impossible* situation against *impossible* odds!

There's no way Joshua can pull this off!

Only GOD can win this battle!

What a great place to be!!

We can't do it!

I guess we'll have to trust God!

Why don't we ever get used to that?!!

Why do we have to go back over this time and time again?

God keeps putting us in situations where we don't have the resources to pull it off, because He WANTS us to acknowledge our dependence on Him!

God does that to me EVERY Sunday morning!

God did that to US with the Bilaspur project!—We couldn't afford that!

God is going to do that this week to the Japan Team (right Bob?!)

—to the Ireland Team!

God may do that in your life this week!

GOD WANTS US TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE NEED HIM!!

Joshua is up to the task!

He's a great military genius.

But, more important, GOD is fighting for Israel.

He can count on God's presence!

God promises victory. 11:6

Again the Lord affirms that He will give them the victory. 6

"Do not be afraid of them!"

"By this time tomorrow, I will hand all of them over to Israel slain."

"God gives them victory."

Israel defeats northern army and returns to destroy and plunder towns.

God delivers the Canaanites into Israel's hand. 8

Joshua obeys God totally.

Joshua's confidence in God, and his obedience to God's command, is absolute.

They totally destroyed them; there were **no survivors** left—**just as God commanded!**

Another repeated theme (green highlight)

They were to disable the horses and destroy the chariots

—lest they trust their newly-acquired weapons.

Joshua left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded him (Moses). 15

SUMMARY OF VICTORY 11:16-12:24

Joshua takes charge 11:16-23 Territory conquered

Author summarizes conquest, describing territory and kings defeated.
God hardens hearts of each city so they fight until He destroys them.
Joshua is able to take control of the entire land God promised them.

Contrast with Gibeon 18-20

None of the other cities learn from Gibeon's example!

Notice the implied commendation for Gibeon.

They're the *only* city that realizes the value of making peace with Israel.

Even after seeing that everyone who chooses war is destroyed.

Bigger cities than theirs are destroyed.

Wouldn't it be WISE to make PEACE with God's people?!!

But God hardens their hearts. NONE of them get it!!

God didn't harden Gibeon. They don't DESERVE it either!

God chose to show them grace.

They receive the benefit of God's grace.

Gen. 12:3 applies: "I will bless those who bless you!"

"I will make peace with those who make peace with you!"

No one tries to make a treaty with them.

The Lord hardens their hearts to fight Israel, so he can destroy them. 20

Defeat of the giants 21-22

Special mention made of the defeat of the Anakites. 21-22

They're the "giants" that terrified the spies 40 + years earlier.

Israel wipes them out! Because the Lord is with them!

Joshua conquers the entire land and distributes it to the tribes as an inheritance.

23 Summary statement: **Impact of the conquest.**

They took over the land.

There were still large parts not yet defeated.

But they *took charge* of all of it.

The following distribution of the land implies that they are in charge.

List of the defeated kings 12

List is composed of the kings defeated in effort to take over the land:

Under Moses east of Jordan 12:1-6 6

Under Joshua west of Jordan 12:7-24 7

There are still large areas of land to be conquered (13:1),

but God has put Joshua in charge,

What lessons do WE learn?

1. God is with us, just as He was with Joshua.

2. God is just as capable of giving us victory over those who want to destroy us,
as He was of giving Joshua victory in his day.

Whether that enemy is spiritual—Eph. 6—principalities and powers of darkness that want to destroy our effectiveness.

Whether that enemy is physical—someone who is out to get us.

We can trust God to use our circumstances for our good and His glory, and to give us victory

He is with us. He will fight for us.

3. We can trust Him to fight the battle for us!

We need only . . .

. . . take God at His Word. . . . trust His promises.

. . . rely on His presence. . . . follow His directions.

When we trust Him, we will do what He says.

—in the dark —even when we don't understand what He's doing