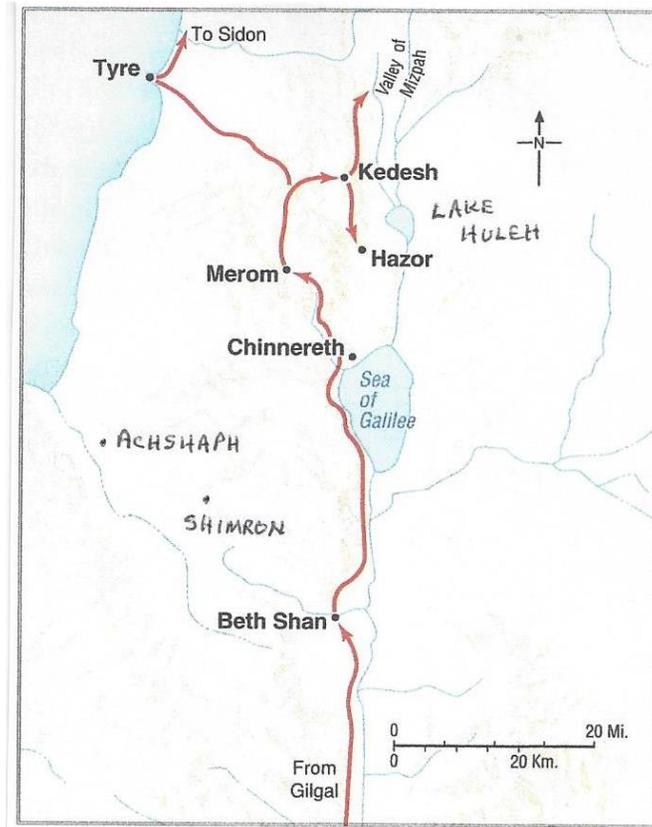


# Joshua

## The LORD is Salvation



### Chapter 11 *The Northern Kings are Defeated (Northern Campaign)*

**11:1-5** Earlier, Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem, appealed to kings in southern Canaan <sup>Joshua 10:3-4</sup> to war against Israel, and later Jabin king of Hazor sent a similar request to kings in the north. Kings from regions along the Mediterranean coastline, the northern mountains, the Arabah (the rift valley from the Sea of Galilee [Lake Kinnereth or Chinneroth: *harp*; also called Lake Tiberias] to the Gulf of Aqaba) and near Mt. Hermon (the headwaters of the Jordan) gathered their troops at the Waters of Merom (an area of many springs) in preparation to fight Joshua and the Israelites. The northern army was huge, being described here as: “numerous as the sand on the seashore” (same as Abraham’s descendants <sup>Genesis 22:17</sup>), with many horses and chariots. Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites: sons of Canaan, the son of Ham, the son of Noah <sup>Genesis 10:1,6,15</sup>. Josephus described the army as having 300,000 soldiers, 10,000 cavalry and 20,000 chariots. Archaeologists have discovered that Hazor was the largest and best fortified Canaanite city.

## Joshua L: 11-12

**11:6** The LORD once again assured Joshua the victory was guaranteed <sup>Joshua 1:1, 6:2, 8:1, 10:8</sup>, before they even started fighting (and because of their proper preparation <sup>Joshua 7:10-26</sup>). The LORD also instructed Joshua to hamstring the horses (making them lame & useless) and burn the chariots.

Horses and chariots were considered the ultimate weapons during the OT period. However, horses were never mentioned among all the riches of Abraham <sup>Genesis 24:34-35</sup> or Job <sup>Job 1:1-3</sup>. In addition, Israel was told they were not to trust in horses and chariots, but to trust only in the LORD <sup>Psalms 20:7, Proverbs 21:31, Isaiah 31:1</sup>. Also, Israel, without horses, gained many victories over enemies with many horses <sup>v.4-11, Judges 4:12-16, 2 Samuel 8:3-4</sup>. On the other hand, one of Solomon's failings appears to have been his trust in an abundance of horses <sup>1 Kings 4:26, 10:26</sup>. There even seems to be an indication horses were associated with idol worship <sup>2 Kings 23:11</sup>.

**11:7-9** As the LORD promised, the battle was successful, and all the northern armies (all 300,000!) were killed in the battle or as they retreated north past the Litani River toward the Phoenician coastal city of Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim and up the Valley of Mizpah, west of Mt. Hermon. Joshua carefully obeyed God's instructions concerning the horses and the chariots.

**11:10-11** Once all the armies were killed, the Israelites returned to the leading city of Hazor, and killed everyone else with the sword, including the king, and burned the city, as they had done to Jericho & Ai <sup>Joshua 6:24, 8:28</sup>. They did not spare any human <sup>v.14</sup> "that breathed" <sup>Deuteronomy 20:16-17</sup>.

**11:12-15** Joshua and the Israelite army then destroyed all of the other key northern cities. They killed everyone by the sword, including the kings, as God had instructed Moses <sup>Deuteronomy 7:1-2</sup>, who passed the directions on to Joshua. Unlike in Hazor, the Israelites did not burn any of the other cities built on their own mounds (*tel*: accumulated debris from earlier settlements).

**11:16-19** Joshua summarized the conquest of "this entire land", north to south: Mt. Hermon to Kadesh-Barnea and east to west: the Jordan River to the western edge of the hill country along the Mediterranean Sea. The conquest of the land took 7 years (probably c.1406–1399 B.C.).

The seven years is determined from knowing the difference between Caleb's age when Moses sent him into the PL from Kadesh-Barnea (he was 40 years old <sup>Joshua 14:7</sup>) and his age when he was given his allotment of land (he was 85 years old <sup>Joshua 14:10</sup>), then subtracting the time spent wandering in the wilderness from Kadesh-Barnea to their crossing of the Zered Valley (the wanderings took 38 years <sup>Deuteronomy 2:14</sup>). The 45 years minus 38 years equals 7 years.

These 7 years of tribulation seem to have foreshadowed the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel <sup>Daniel 9:27</sup>.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price (505-294-4743; ron@hopeinchristnm.com).

## Joshua L: 11-12

**11:20** The LORD actually “hardened [the Canaanites] hearts to wage war against Israel” <sup>Exodus 14:17</sup> so Israel would be His instruments of harsh judgement <sup>Leviticus 18:24-25</sup>. Remember <sup>Joshua 10 notes</sup>, He only did this after the Canaanites rejected Him for 400 years (“4 generations” <sup>Genesis 15:16</sup>). Another reason for total destruction was that anyone left would “be a snare” <sup>Deuteronomy 7:16</sup>.

**11:21-22** Then Joshua went about destroying the Anakites (Anakim: sons of Anak <sup>Numbers 13:22</sup>, who were descendants of the large Nephilim <sup>Genesis 6:4, Numbers 13:33</sup>, and undoubtedly the giants who made the spies feel as small as grasshoppers <sup>Numbers 13:28-33</sup>) in the southern hill country, but there were still Anakites (probably ancestors of Goliath <sup>1 Samuel 17</sup>) west of the hill country, along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea (“in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod” <sup>1 Samuel 6:17</sup> ⇒ Philistia).

**11:23** While some areas of resistance remained <sup>Joshua 13:1</sup>, generally the land was conquered (they defeated the major cities, etc) as the LORD had directed Moses and Joshua <sup>Numbers 33:53</sup>. Therefore, God fulfilled His promise by giving the land as an inheritance to the tribes <sup>Genesis 12:7</sup>.

## Chapter 12 *A Summary of the Defeated Kings and Cities*

This chapter details the list of kings defeated by Moses east of the Jordan River <sup>v.1-6</sup> and by Joshua west of the Jordan River (the central <sup>v.9</sup>, southern <sup>v.10-16</sup> and northern kings <sup>v.17-24</sup>).

**12:1** Joshua recounted the conquered kings and cities. The descriptions start with the conquests east of the Jordan River, from the Arnon River in the south to Mt. Hermon to the north.

**12:2-5** The Israelites conquered the Amorite king Sihon <sup>Joshua 2:10</sup>, who reigned from the south end of the Sea of Kinnereth (Galilee) south to the Arnon Gorge, midway along the Salt (Dead) Sea. They also defeated Og king of Bashan <sup>Joshua 2:10</sup>, who ruled from the Jabbok River (between the Sea of Galilee/the Dead Sea) and east of the Arabah on the south to Mt. Hermon on the north.

**12:6** The Israelites were led in these victories by Moses, who allowed the lands east of the Jordan to be given to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh <sup>Joshua 1:12-13</sup>.

**12:7-8** Joshua and the Israelites conquered the kings of the lands west of the Jordan River. These kings, who are named in the remainder of this chapter, represent the inherited land from Mt. Hermon to Kadesh-Barnea that would be divided among the remaining 9½ tribes.

**12:9-24** These verses list the thirty-one cities who had kings that were defeated by Joshua.

Many modern military organizations (Nazi General Staff, West Point, Israeli Defense Forces) have carefully studied the battle styles of Joshua: speed, stealth and terrain knowledge.

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