CAPITOL COMMISSION
Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders

MOPray

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Weekly Bible Study Schedule | Tuesday, April 8, 7:00-7:45 AM | HHR #3
Capitol Commission is NON-PARTISAN and MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL

INTRODUCTION

Joshua chapter eleven continues the narrative of Israel's conquest on Canaan with chapter twelve serving as a record of Israel's conquests. This chapter restates the happenings in chapter eleven. A memorial chapter listing the 31-kings defeated by Israel with God leading the conquest. The odds were against Israel. God is faithful to keep His promises. When God's people obey His commands, regardless of the opposition, He will give them victory. It is a testimony that God fulfills His promises. Every victory comes from the LORD.

ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU

11:1 – When King Jabin of Hazor heard what had happened…

Joshua completed the conquest in front of all the people in the portion of land where the five Amalekite king's lived. There was more land to be conquered but for that battle the sun was set.

> *Joshua prayed to the LORD in front of all the people of Israel. He said, "Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies.* Joshua 10:12-13

11:1, 4 – …he sent messages to the following kings (dozens)…**All these kings came out to fight. Their combined armies formed a vast horde. And with all their horses and chariots, they covered the landscape like the sand on the seashore.**

A combined demonstration of military might and resources. They were strong and armed with one goal: slaughter Israel, stop their advance, enslave them once again as their ancestors were in Egypt. From what the natural eye could see Israel was outnumbered. When the odds are against you face your circumstances with faith in God and a boldness as though the victory was already secured. When you make progress in your relationship with God and follow His words in Scripture you will face opposition. If you go through life without experiencing opposition, you might want to ask, why? The enemy of our soul seeks to slaughter you, stop your spiritual growth, and enslave you back into your old sinful behaviors.

FAITH NOT FEAR

11:6 – Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them. By this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel as dead men. Then you must cripple their horses and burn their chariots."

One can understand why Joshua might be afraid. The foreboding armies were too large to number, and too dense to see beyond the front line. The LORD speaks directly to Joshua to not be afraid, "within 24-hours your enemies will be defeated". Not only did God give Joshua a personal promise, he gave Joshua the military strategy to immobilize and disempower their armies.

> *Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. Those nations will fall down and collapse, but we will rise up and stand firm.* Proverbs 20:7-8

Joshua along with his mighty warriors traveled a long distance to attack and defeat the coalition. While God gave them the victory, they had to travel to the battle field, execute military strategy, and use their military arms. God does not need us He chooses to work with us and through us. Faith of the followers of Jesus is not passive rather responsive to God's word and will.

11:10, 13 – Joshua then turned back and captured Hazor and killed its king. (Hazor had at one time been the capital of all these kingdoms.) But the Israelites did not burn any of the towns built on mounds except Hazor, which Joshua burned.

Interlopers in that era would take built cities and plunder for themselves, which Israel did, except for Hazor. Joshua burned down the city of Hazor shattering the foundation of the alliance and weakening the resistance in Canaan.

11:15 – As the LORD had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. And Joshua did as he was told, carefully obeying all the commands that the LORD had given to Moses.

Leadership matters. Joshua was a great leader of Israel. He carried out the commands of the LORD that he learned from Moses. Continuity of two great leaders who fulfilled God's instructions brought blessing and success to Israel. God works through human leaders to advance His purposes.

HARD HEARTED

11:20 – For the LORD hardened their hearts and caused them to fight the Israelites. So they were completely destroyed without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

The Bible references 13-times the hardening of the heart. Most texts refer to God's judgement or God's sovereignty. God is not passive in judgement He gives people over to their rebellion and persistent sin. The sins of the Amalekites persisted for 400-years before God's judgment was executed. God acts with purpose and justice. God will use human rejection and rebellion to fulfill His plans and purposes.

> *After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction." The LORD your God will drive these nations out ahead of you only because of their wickedness, and to fulfill the oath he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.* Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 9:5

The Canaanite kings and their people were in a perpetual insurrection against God. They hardened their hearts toward God long before Israel's conquest. They resisted God's mercy. Rahab and the Gibeonites asked for, and accepted God's mercy. God's mercy and justice are a part of His judgment. God's hardening of their hearts was confirmed what were already hardened hearts and caused their rebellion against the God of Israel.

GIANTS IN THE LAND

11:21 – During this period Joshua destroyed all the descendants of Anak, who lived in the hill country of Hebron, Debir, Anab, and the entire hill country of Judah and Israel.

The name "Anak" means "long-necked" or "giant" in Hebrew. Anak was a descendant of the Nephilim. The Anakim were a race of giants living in Canaan, particularly around the hill country of Hebron.

Do you remember the 12-spies that Moses sent out to scout the land of Canaan? Ten of whom brought back a negative report saying there are giants in the land we cannot defeat.

> *"We saw the Nephilim there. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."* "...The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there." Numbers 13:33; Deuteronomy 1:28

God's power is greater than any coalition. When the enemy looks big, God is bigger.

PROMISE MADE A PROMISE KEPT

11:23 – So Joshua took control of the entire land, just as the LORD had instructed Moses. He gave it to the people of Israel as their special possession, dividing the land among the tribes. So the land finally had rest from war.

God keeps His promises even if it takes generations. God's promises are true. After the seven-year war each of the 12-Tribes received a portion of land. This special possession fulfills God's covenant promise, it identifies as a place of belonging and security.

> *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him.* Genesis 12:7

Chapter 12 is a list of kings and their cities conquered. The 31-kings listed is not only a statement of historical fact it is a testimony of God's faithful fulfillment of His covenant with Israel to conquer the land, possess the land, and live on the land. All the kings were defeated by the God of Israel.

> *He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.* Daniel 2:21

There is only one King – Jesus, the King of Kings!

When the Odds are Against You