

Joshua Chapter 11: The Lord Fulfills His 600yr Promise Concerning the Land

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Introduction

Approximately 600yrs prior God promised Israel victory (via their forefather Abraham) over the people of Canaan in order to fulfill His promise concerning the Promise Land. God makes good on that promise when he delivers all the Canaanite nations into Israel's hands in Jos. 6-11. This reveals that the God we worship is faithful to His Word and His people. Today, it is that same Word that promises us victory over the foes we face. Do you believe that He is faithful to His Word today? Do you know the promises He's given you?

Israel's History Prior to Joshua Chapter 1

- God frees Israel from Egypt (Ex. 12:29-41).
- God leads Israel to the Promise Land, but they refuse to enter (Num. 13:1-14:12).
- Israel is cursed to wander in the wilderness for 40yrs (Num. 14:20-35).
- Moses is not allowed to enter the Promise Land (Num. 20:5-12, 24; 27:14).
- Joshua is appointed by God to replace Moses (Num. 27:15-23; Deut. 31:14).
- God delivers two Amorite kings into Israel's hands. (Num. 21:21-35; Deut 2:24-3:10).
- God brings Israel back to the Promise Land (Num. 33:40-56).

Joshua Chapter 1: *Victory before Entering the Promise Land*

Joshua Chapter 2: *The Two Spies Confirm God's Word about the Promise Land*

Joshua Chapter 3 & 4: *The Parting of the Jordan River, Israel's Crossing, and the Stones of Remembrance*

Joshua Chapter 5: *A Tuning Point in Israel's History*

Joshua Chapter 6: *The Lord Delivers Jericho into Israel's Hands*

Joshua Chapter 7: *Israel's Sin and their Subsequent Defeat at Ai*

Joshua Chapter 8: *Israel's Victory Over Ai*

Joshua Chapter 9: *Failure to Seek the Lord's Counsel: Treaty with the Gibeonites*

Joshua Chapter 10: *"The Lord God of Israel Fought for Israel"*

Five Amorite kings attack Gibeon, which forces Israel to defend them due to their treaty with them. God guarantees Joshua victory and he attacks the 5 kings suddenly. God rains hail upon the enemy and stops the sun and moon to give Joshua daylight to defeat the 5 kings. By the time it's over Joshua kills and conquers 9 kings and 8 cities.

Joshua Chapter 11: *The Lord Fulfills His 600yr Promise Concerning the Land*

11:1-3, the great army that assembled in 9:1-2 was interrupted by the treaty some of the Hivites, i.e., the Gibeonites, made with Israel. This causes 5 Amorite kings to attack Gibeon (10:5), which makes Joshua defend Gibeon due to their treaty. Joshua slaughters the 5 kings and 4 others and then the nations of 9:1-2 assemble once again.

11:4-5, the great army now threatening Israel was incredible in number and weaponry. They gathered at Merom, which is northwest of the Sea of Chinnereth (Galilee).

11:6, Joshua faces a mammoth challenge, but at this precise moment God reassures him by promising him total victory over this great army, a promise God made to Israel over 600yrs ago via Abraham. Additionally, God gives Joshua specific instructions about his enemy's horses and chariots. He's to hamstring (cut the horses' ankle tendon) the horses and burn the chariots.

11:7, Joshua & Co. do not waiver at God's promise. They so believe God that they proceed to do a surprise attack against this great army where they gather at Merom.

11:8-9, the Lord fulfills His promise and Joshua & Co. surprise the enemy and slaughter them. Joshua also obeys the Lord's command regarding the horses and chariots, which may've been done before or after the battle: (1) happened during battle to prevent the enemy from using their modern weaponry against them, or (2) happened after the battle to prevent Israel from using this weaponry and relying on it instead of God.

11:10-11, Joshua kills the ringleader, Jabin king of Hazor, and burns his city, the greatest city in the region, which shows all the Canaanite nations that Israel and their God cannot be stopped.

11:12-14, Joshua kills the other kings involved and takes their cities and the cities around them. Israel keeps the spoil according to the curse in Deut. 20:10-18, which demands human life not animal life, unless God states otherwise as with Jericho in Joshua 6.

11:15, the fact that there's yet land to be conquered and that Israel made an unlawful treaty with the Gibeonites does not contradict the statement that Joshua left *nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded*. This is a statement about Joshua's obedience. He's led Israel in the conquest of the Land and continues to until his age prevents him, 13:1, and the treaty with the Gibeonites wasn't willful disobedience. They were fooled because they failed to ask God.

11:16-18, this gives the general boundaries of all the land that Jos conquered, including the southern territory that was mentioned in chapter 10. It was a conquest that lasted approximately 7yrs.

11:19-20, Israel made peace with none of the nations they battled save one faction of the Hivites, the Gibeonites. Everyone else they utterly destroyed without mercy, which was God's doing. Why? Because He gave these nations over 400yrs to repent (Gen. 15:16) of their wickedness (Lev. 18:19-25), but they did not (Jud. 2).

11:21-22, the conquest of the Land ends with a mention of Joshua's defeat of the Anakim (which fulfills God's promise, Deut. 9:1-3), the giants that frightened Israel approximately 45yrs earlier, Num. 13:28, 33. However, some of them remained in the territories yet to be conquered.

11:23, the reference to the "whole land" is not a reference to every square inch of the Promise Land, but the land that Israel has conquered thus far. This is clear from God's own detailed accounting of the land that remains to be conquered, Jos. 13:1-6. For now the land conquered thus far rests from war, especially war on the scale of Jos. 10-11.

Application:

God made a promise to Israel 600yrs earlier that they would occupy the Promise Land, something unimaginable because many powerful nations occupied that Land. But regardless of the obstacles, God is faithful to His promises, to His Word. Are you aware of this? Do you know that right now in your life He's got hundreds of promises waiting to rescue you from the dangers you face? God will equip you with His Word, which will conquer every tribulation that you will ever face in your life.

A. A Mother and her Terrible Two-year old: Prov. 13:24; 22:6, 15; 29:15, 17; Eph. 6:4

God tells parents to raise their children *in the training and admonition of the Lord*. And He reveals that sometimes this will require corporeal punishment. Does this work? Famous child psychologist Dr. Benjamin Spock said: *I don't think physical punishment is necessary or particularly effective*. Whose right?

B. Addicted to Porn: Prov. 5; Song of Solomon; Eph. 5:25-33

Does the Bible actually address an issue like addiction to porn? God tells the husband (and wife) that their sexual desire is to be satisfied exclusively by their spouse. God tells the husband and wife that sex is to be enjoyed, but that it's more than a mere act; it involves the whole being: mind, body, and soul. He tells the husband that he is to love his wife as Christ loved His wife and died for her and He tells the wife that she is to respect her husband.