

Joshua 11

For these 3 chapters, we are only going to hit the highlights (you can read this material on your own, if you like)

- The Old Testament is different from the New Testament
- When you read straight through the Bible (all 66 books), you get through with the 39 books of the Old Testament, and when you start *Matthew*, it is like suddenly jumping to the speed of light
- From the first verse of *Matthew* to the last verse of the *Revelation*, it never stops
- So there is a huge change from *Malachi 4* to *Matthew 1*

So what was the purpose of the Old Testament? Read Romans 15.4

- The Old Testament has passages that applied primarily to the Jews; it is sometimes hard for us to appreciate these passages.
- It has been said that the most important page in the Bible is the page separating the Old Testament from the New Testament (the reason for the 450 gap between *Malachi 4* and *Matthew 1*)

Notice: There was a student at Harding Graduate School of Religion when I was there who was obsessed with the boundaries of the Twelve Tribes – he constantly studied them; he went to Israel and would step off the boundaries and study them – he saw the value in them

Joshua 11.1-5

V 1-2 – Joshua was soon challenged by the united kings in the north

- Who was the leader of this coalition of peoples to the north?** Jabin, king of Hazor
- these kings controlled territory from the plains of Philistia to the mountains to the east

V 3 - The Jebusites (people who controlled Jerusalem) were also a part of this coalition

V 4 – **How did the writer of Joshua describe the warriors in this coalition?** Like sand on the seashore

- What tactical advantages did these groups have over the Israelites?** Horses and chariots (so they were into the Iron Age)

V 5 – So they all camped together and prepared to destroy the Israelites

Joshua 11.6-9

V 6 – **What was the promise to God to Joshua?** Tomorrow at that time, these enemies of Israel would be defeated and dead

V 7 – **What tactic did Joshua use in the battle?** He took the offensive and attacked them by surprise (they did not expect that from this band of escaped slaves)

V 8 – **What was the outcome of the battle?** The Lord defeated them, and no survivor was left
-So chariots and horses did not matter to God

V 9 – **What did God tell Joshua to do the horses?** Hamstring them (so that they could not be used for battles any more)
-Any nation that trusts in its weapons and armaments (instead of trusting in God) needs to consider

this passage

Joshua 11.10-15

V 10 – Who is specifically mentioned as being killed by Joshua? Hazor, the leader of the coalition

V 11 – Every person from Hazor was killed

V 12 – What happened to the rest of the kings who had participated in the battle under Hazor?
They were killed

V 13 – What exception did Joshua make concerning burning the cities of his enemies? He did not destroy the cities that were sitting on their "mounds" (the remains of former cities)
-They didn't destroy any town sitting on its "mound" (technical name: "tell")
-One city was built on top of another
See *Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia, II, 159* – Tell (or mound) of Dothan

V 14-15 – Joshua and the Israelites did all that God had commanded (so different from the Israelites who believed the report of the 10 spies and spent the next 40 years dying in the wilderness)

Joshua 11.16-20

V 16-17 – A summary of the battles so far

V 18 – About 5-7 years – Caleb was 40 years old when the wilderness trek began (*Joshua 14.7*) – he was 85 years old when the conquest was finished (*Joshua 14.10*)

V 19 – How many cities made arrangements to make peace with the Israelites? Only one: Gibeon

V 20 – God hardened their hearts from time to time – **Why?**

Let's go back to the days of Pharaoh and the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt

The Bible says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart:

-*Exod. 7.13*

-*Exod. 8.32*

-*Exod. 9.34-35*

But we also read that God hardened Pharaoh's heart:

-*Exod. 4.21*

-*Exod. 7.3*

-*Exod. 9.12*

-*Exod. 10.1*

-*Exod. 10.20*

The resolution of these scriptures:

- Pharaoh was determined to keep the Israelites in Egypt, or else to destroy them in the process
- During the 10 Plagues, sometimes his determination to keep the Israelites there got a little weak, and he tried to compromise with them ("You can go into the wilderness, but you can't take the children" or "You can go into the wilderness, but not very far")
- But God knew that in the end Pharaoh would try to destroy the Israelites if they actually tried to

leave Egypt – which is exactly what happened – Pharaoh and his army tried to cross the Red Sea behind the Israelites to attack them...

Therefore, when Pharaoh attempted to compromise with the Israelites, God hardened Pharaoh's heart, because God knew that in the end Pharaoh was evil through and through

-So God knew how it would end and did not want to give the weak Israelites an excuse to compromise with Pharaoh and stay in Egypt

-They had to leave Egypt, if the Messiah was going to be born in Judea 1445 years later

New Testament parallel passage: **Read 2 Thessalonians 2.8-12** (flying saucers, "miraculous healings," snake handling, ghosts, communication with the dead, evolution, etc.)

Joshua 11.21-23

V 21 – **Read Numbers 13.22, 28, 33** – the giants that the 10 spies were afraid of

-Joshua defeated them here, and Caleb defeated them in *Joshua 14.12-15*

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