

Sunday Night Message

February 11, 2018

Joshua 11 – *Conquest of the North*

Series – Joshua

Text – Joshua 11

Introduction

In chapter eleven, we see almost a duplication of what we saw in chapter ten, except here the geography of the battle is in the area to the north of Jericho and Gilgal, northwest of the Sea of Galilee. The Kings from northern Canaan do the same thing that the southern kings did: they group together to form a confederation. It is likely that these kings didn't get along with each other prior to the invasion of the Israelites, but they were forced to come together to fight against their common enemy. As the saying goes: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

I The Consolidation of the Enemy Kings (vs. 1 – 5)

The kings of the north apparently did not learn a lesson from the kings in the south. Instead of leaving, they group together in an attempt to fight off the advancing Israelites.

This is a picture of what the kings of the earth will do at the end of the Great Tribulation Period.

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army." (Revelation 19:19)

Turn to [Psalm 2](#)

Obviously, we realize that fighting against the Lord's people is a futile effort, regardless of the size of the army.

*"And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: **for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.**" (1 Samuel 14:6)*

*"And Joab said unto the king, **Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold,** and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?" (2 Samuel 24:3)*

II The Counsel of the Lord (v. 6)

God assures the Israelites that He is with them and He guarantees the victory. The Israelites only had to believe what God said, and move forward into the battle. It is the same for us today. We need only to move forward in the will of God and see God bring the victory.

III The Conquering of the North (vs. 7 – 14)

It is interesting that God doesn't devote as much time to the conquest of the northern part of Israel as He did in the conquest of the south. It's almost like it is a foregone conclusion that God was going to now do exactly what He said He would.

Only 1 of these cities was completely destroyed, though they were all completely emptied out of Canaanite inhabitants.

IV The Completion of God's Will (v. 15)

Joshua completely fulfilled God's will for his life. He delivered the people of Israel into the Promised Land.

Solomon fulfilled God's will for his life by building the Temple.

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:20)

Nehemiah fulfilled God's will for his life by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

"And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3)

Paul fulfilled God's will for his life by evangelizing the world in the first century.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Have you found God's will for your life?

Have you fulfilled God's will for your life?

V The Conclusion of Conquest of Canaan (vs. 16 – 23)

Notice the reference to the Anakins. (See Numbers 13:33)

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:33)

"Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak! Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy

face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee."
(Deuteronomy 9:1-3)

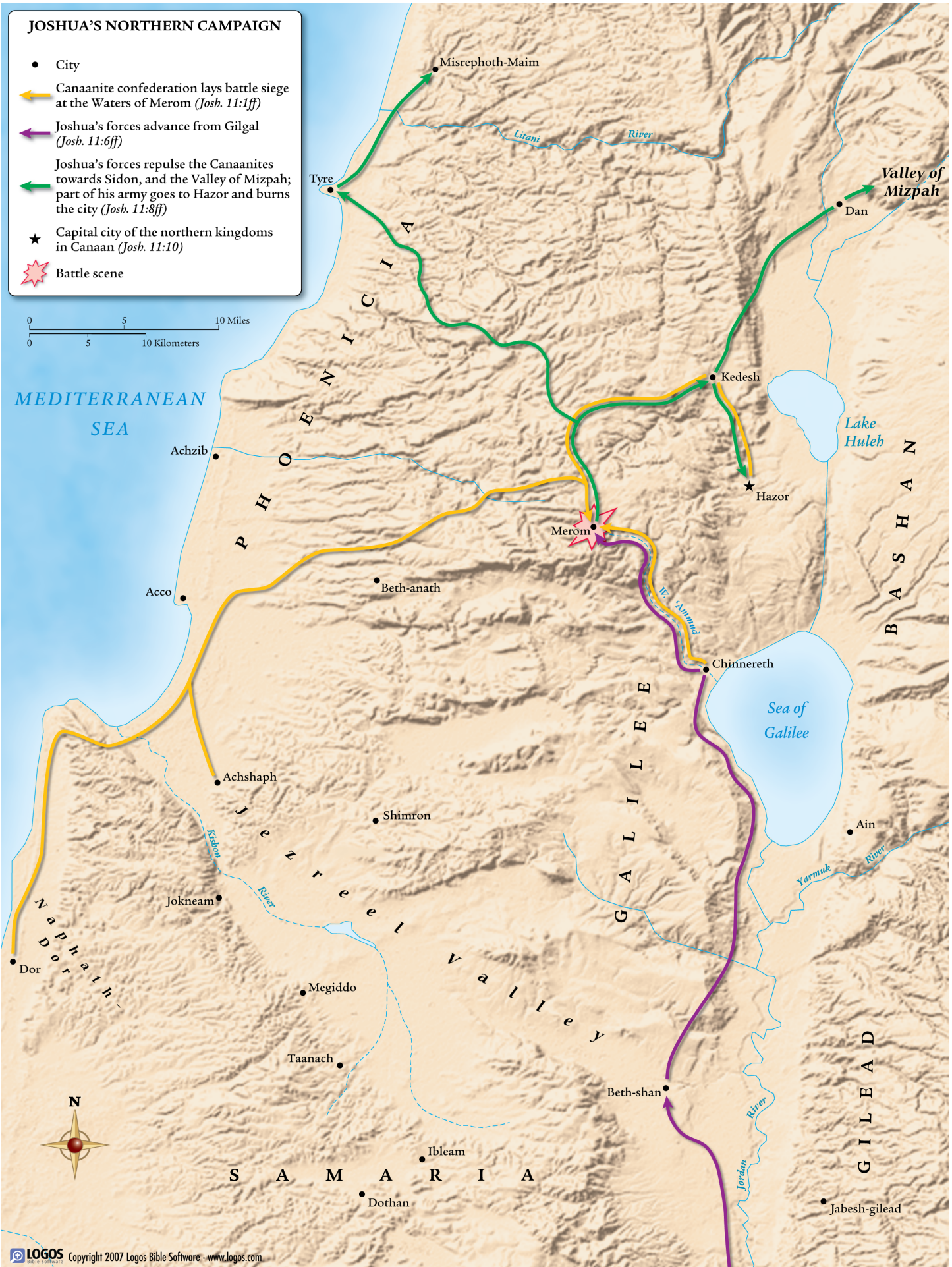
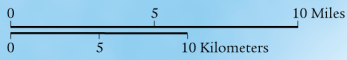
God is fulfilling His plan with Israel. He is driving out the Canaanite, and He is giving them the land that He had promised them over five hundred years previously. All they have to do now is keep God first in their lives. Unfortunately, the sinful human nature will make that an impossibility, however. The people will eventually prosper and will then become spoiled, and like rebellious children they will rebel against the God who gave them the land.

Christian, God has done, is doing, and will do, great things with your life. Don't forget Him. Keep Him first in your life. Don't forsake Him.



JOSHUA'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

- City
- ← Canaanite confederation lays battle siege at the Waters of Merom (*Josh. 11:1ff*)
- ← Joshua's forces advance from Gilgal (*Josh. 11:6ff*)
- ← Joshua's forces repulse the Canaanites towards Sidon, and the Valley of Mizpah; part of his army goes to Hazor and burns the city (*Josh. 11:8ff*)
- ★ Capital city of the northern kingdoms in Canaan (*Josh. 11:10*)
- ★ Battle scene



EXTENT OF THE CONQUEST

- City: Town whose king is said to have been defeated by Israel's forces
- Town inside Israelite control
- Town beyond Israelite control
- Town not captured (*Josh. 13:1-7; 16:10; 17:7-18; Judg. 1*)
- City of refuge
- Town burned by Israelites in conquest
- ★ Major battle sites of Israel's conquest
- Area of Israel's control

