

Joshua Chapter 11 Commentary

1 ¶ And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor had heard *those things*, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, **2 ¶** And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west, **3 ¶** And to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and to the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpeh. **4** And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many. **5** And when all these kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.

In the previous chapter, Israel completed the capture and destruction of the kings, in the southern portion of the land of promise, that had fought against Israel. These are the kings from the north of the land that has been taken so far.

Jabin calls for all the kings, which are subordinate to him, to come together to fight against Israel, and thus they are fighting against God. Jabin is a Hebrew word that means *intelligent or cunning*. This prophetically speaks to us of our enemy, the devil, who is intelligent, cunning, and subtle, in all his works. This is another reminder to us; God's sovereign will must be accomplished. God has promised this land of promise to be occupied by his chosen people. These nations and kings that do not know God, except by hearing of the great things he has done in giving victories to Israel, are just doing what the enemies of God always do. They unite in hopes of overcoming the predetermined will of God.

The lesson for us is; when we make our public profession of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we become the target of our enemies, satan and his followers. They will come together and try to discomfit us in our Christian walk. However, we, like Israel, have Jesus Christ on our side, and Christ has already accomplished our eternal salvation, which gives us a right to live in the land of promise on earth, the church established by Christ Jesus.

6 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.

Do not miss the past tense, of God's message to Joshua, of what is going to happen the next day. "**for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel:**" God tells Joshua: they are already dead men, you just trust in me and do what I tell you to do.

This is the same application we need to make in our own Christian lives. Christ has already overcome our enemies, seen in: **Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."** We can rest in full assurance of our victory over sin and evil, because of what we read in: **1Jo 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."** That is, living in accordance with God's commandments, we can rest in full assurance of victory. We cannot live in disobedience, or defiance, of God's way, and will, and have the full assurance of his protection, nor can we expect to be victorious in our Christian lives.

7 So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them. 8 And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephothmaim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining. 9 And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.

Consider the number of enemies, which were slain this day in battle: verse 4 ***"And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many."*** Certainly, this makes the victory a miraculous event. It also lends greater meaning to the phrase: ***"for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel:"***

Houghed is from the Hebrew word `aqar, and it means: *to root out, to hamstring, to render useless by cutting the tendons of the hock.*

10 And Joshua at that time turned back, and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms. 11 ¶ And they smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying *them*: there was not any left to breathe: and he burnt Hazor with fire. 12 ¶ And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. 13 ¶ But as for the cities that stood still in their strength, Israel burned none of them, save Hazor only; *that did Joshua burn.* 14 And all the spoil of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves; but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breathe.

Notice that Joshua took Hazor, which was where Jabin reigned. As we pointed out, in the commentary on verses 1-5, and as described here, all these kings were subordinate to Jabin.

In verse thirteen we see; there are some of these cities that Joshua and Israel did not destroy, but saved them for themselves for occupation. This is as commanded by God seen in: ***De 6:10-13; 10 "And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, 11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name."*** We see in this scripture the warning to Israel; when you get these blessing and grow fat and lazy, do not forget God.

Prophetically, we see this same thing today. How? When you were born again and joined the local church body, you entered a city that was already established. A city that was already furnished, and you have only to enjoy the blessing therein. We have the same warning: do not grow fat and lazy in this great blessing given to us by Christ our Saviour. Do not take these blessing for granted, but give all glory, honor, and praise to God and Christ, for the bountiful mercies, and blessings, bestowed upon us.

The devil loves for God's people to get fat and feeling secure. Why? Because then; we are easier to lure away from God, because we feel self-sufficient in our abundance. This is one reason we are promised trials, troubles, and tribulations in this life. Remember, we are warned of this in the New Testament in the rich young man, seen in: *Mr 10:17-23; 17 "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 ¶ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"* Surely, we can see in this; abundance in our lives can be a hindrance to true faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

15 As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses. **16** So Joshua took all that land, the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same; **17 ¶** Even from the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir, even unto Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon under mount Hermon: and all their kings he took, and smote them, and slew them. **18** Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. **19 ¶** There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle. **20 ¶** For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, *and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Did you notice that Joshua made war a long time? Joshua and Israel were able to smite all these kings that came out against them in one day. However, all the land was not conquered, just the cities and places mentioned earlier in the scripture. There remained to be taken all the land mass and occupants of the areas around these cities. Thus, it is so in our lives here in time. We are engaged in a continual warfare against our enemies as seen in: *2Co 10:1-6; 1 ¶ "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2 ¶ But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 ¶ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."* This warfare shall only end when we die our natural death, or are changed at the second coming of Christ if we are alive at that time.

Again, we see the prophetic foreordained will of God being fulfilled in verses *Jos 11:19-20*. Israel is thus reminded: God had told them already of these things that were coming to pass. It is the same in our own Christian lives. Every time we are blessed to triumph over sin and temptation; we should remember it is by the power of Christ. Every time we remember that we are saved, we should be

brought to remembrance of the foreordained prophesy of the word of God, which we have in the Old and New Testaments. We should give thanks and praise to God, and Christ, for keeping their word of promise, of which we are the kind recipients; first of our salvation by the grace of God, next for the provision of the church established by Christ for us to occupy when we were born again. The church is a place thoroughly furnished as seen in: ***2Ti 3:16-17; 16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."***

Remember also; "***For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly,***" This is another reminder to us; we are to do, as Israel was commanded, and completely rid ourselves of even the appearance of evil, and of the occupation of any imagination of idolatry, which is why Israel was to completely destroy all the inhabitants of the land of promise.

21 And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

The Anakims were a group of people who were very large in stature seen in: ***Nu 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."*** In this reference text, we see; the first time Israel was told to enter the land of promise, they refused, because of the evil report of ten, of the twelve spies, they sent to check out the land of promise. These ten spies brought this report of a people so large we looked like grasshoppers in comparison to them.

We also remember that Joshua and Caleb told Israel at that time, we can take the land and overcome these giants, because God is fighting for us. Now we see; God does indeed give Joshua, Caleb, and Israel the ability to overcome the giants in the land.

The lesson for us: when there are battles to be fought, and enemies to be overcome, no matter how large they are, we are to be faithful to God and move forward at his command, to fulfill his foreordained will and purpose in our lives. We should not be afraid and disobey God, why? For then we must come under the judicial judgment of God, and die in the wilderness as happened to the unbelievers of Israel. If we move at the command of God, we will not leave the giant enemies to be overcome by our children as unfaithful Israel did.

"And the land rested from war." We have here the prophetic picture of the end of time. The time that is coming with the return of Christ, which will bring an eternal end to our enemies, and we shall enter our eternal rest in Christ, in the place he has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

For this glorious hope we have promised to us, we should exercise the same faith Joshua had in the promise of God. Wherefore, let us with bold assurance of faith, in the finished work of Christ Jesus, and in the light of the eternal life we have in Christ, say "***Even so, come, Lord Jesus.***" Amen!