

JOSHUA

The War in the South

Joshua 10:16-43



**MY CONCERN
IS NOT WHETHER GOD**

— is on our side; my —

GREATEST

**CONCERN IS TO BE ON GOD'S
SIDE, FOR GOD IS ALWAYS**

RIGHT



Abraham Lincoln via Gecko & Fly

Outline for Today

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I. When God's People Obey,
The Lord Blesses

II. A Victorious Joshua Points
to a Victorious Jesus

III. Joshua's Southern
Campaign

Review of Last Week:

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5 So the five kings of the Amorites... gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.

6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us...”

Review of Last Week:

JOSHUA

9 So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night...

10 And the Lord confounded them...He slew them...and pursued them... 11 As they fled from before Israel...the Lord threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

And The Cherry on Top:

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13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies...And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. **14** There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.



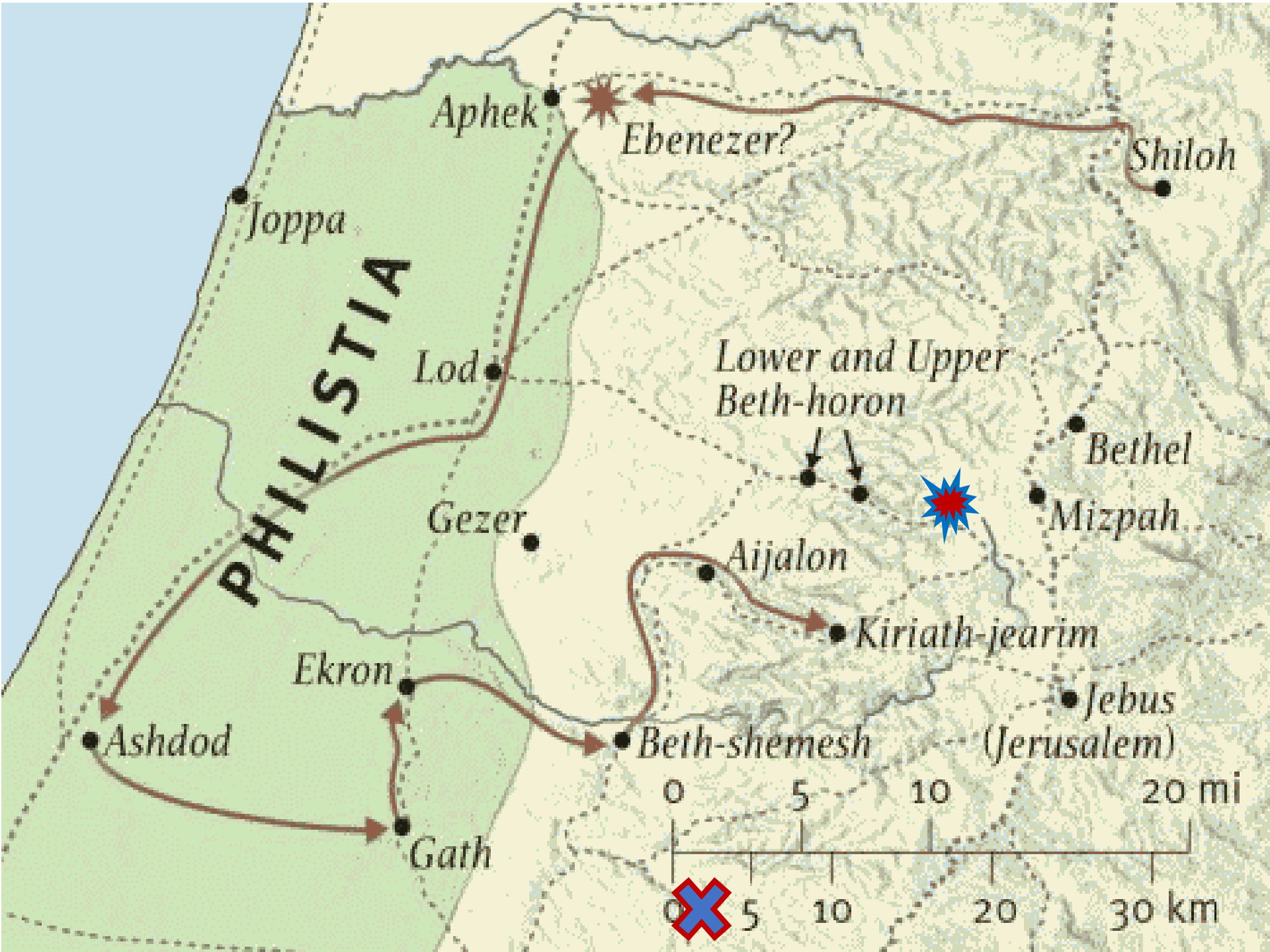
Carl Von Clausewitz, *On War*

- 1. First, the aggressor must destroy the military power of the enemy so he cannot continue or resume war.**
- 2. Second, he must conquer the land of the enemy so a new military force cannot arise from it.**
- 3. Third, he must subdue the will of the enemy.**

Joshua 10:16-18

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16 Now these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah. **17** It was told Joshua, saying, “The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” **18** Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and assign men by it to guard them



Joshua 10:19-20

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19 but do not stay there yourselves; pursue your enemies and attack them in the rear. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand.” **20** It came about when Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished slaying them with a very great slaughter, until they were destroyed, and the survivors who remained of them had entered the fortified cities

Another Reminder:

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“for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand”

The taking of the land and the destruction of the people had already been accomplished by the Lord.

A Little Hint in v. 20

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“and the survivors who remained of them had entered the fortified cities”

This tells us the conquest was not complete and foreshadows some of the future problems that the Israelites will encounter in the land.

Joshua 10:21

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21 that all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel.

Literally, “no one sharpened his tongue” against Israel.

The fear has returned to Canaan, and no one dares speak a word (let alone raise his sword) against Yahweh and Israel.

The Lesson:

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**When Israel
Obey,
The Lord
Blesses.**



BE OBEDIENT

EVEN WHEN YOU

DO NOT KNOW

WHERE OBEDIENCE

MAY LEAD YOU.

SINCLAIR FERGUSON

Proverbs 3:5-6

JOSHUA

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.



Joshua 10:22 Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring these five kings out to me from the cave.” **23** They did so, and brought these five kings out to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

Joshua 10:24-25

JOSHUA

24 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came near and put their feet on their necks. **25** Joshua then said to them, “Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.”

Joshua's Instructions:

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“Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.”

This is a gesture of victory, and similar imagery is used elsewhere in Scripture.

1 Kings 5:3

JOSHUA

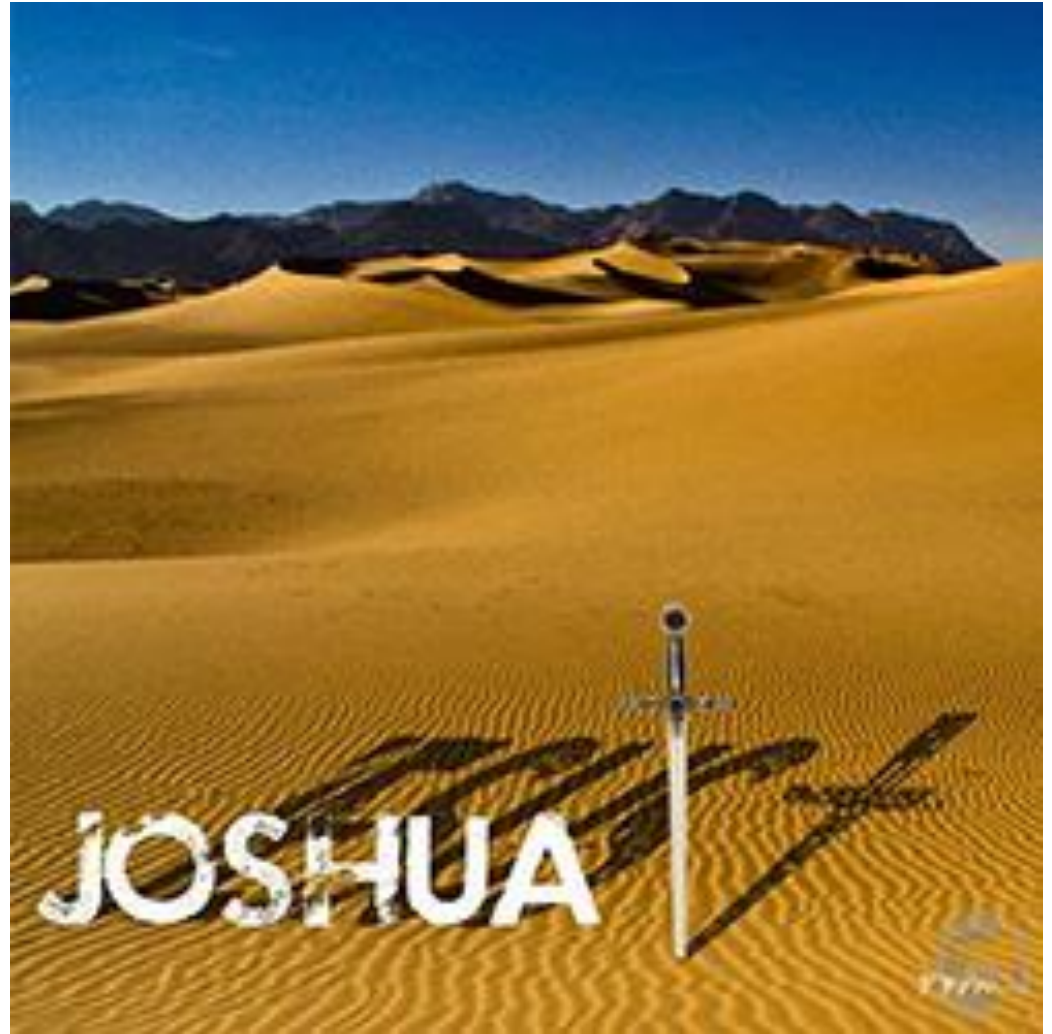
3 “You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet.”

Psalm 18:38-39

JOSHUA

38 I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet. **39** For You have girded me with strength for battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

A Greater Victory to Come



Psalm 110:1

JOSHUA

1 The Lord says to my
Lord: “Sit at My right
hand Until I make
Your enemies a
footstool for Your feet.”

1 Corinthians 15:25-27a

JOSHUA

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy that will be abolished is death. **27** For He has put all things in subjection under His feet.

Joshua's Leadership

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“Do not fear or be dismayed!”

God said this to him following the defeat at Ai.

“Be strong and courageous, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.”

The same charge he received from God.

Godly leaders have a godly vocabulary, and Joshua has earned the authority to give these exhortations.

More Encouragement

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“for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.”

Just as Israel's commanders were physically stepping on these five kings' necks, so the Lord would do to all of Israel's enemies.

Joshua 10:26-27

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26 So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they hung on the trees until evening. **27** It came about at sunset that Joshua gave a command, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and put large stones over the mouth of the cave, to this very day.

Sound Familiar?

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- Just as he did to the King of Ai, and presumably the King of Jericho, he executes them per God's command, hangs them on trees, and buries them before sundown under a heap of stones per the Mosaic Law.
- **Once again: the key takeaway is precise obedience the commands and law of God.**

Do You See the Irony?

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- The kings are buried in the cave where they had earlier been hiding.
- In other words, the place they had thought would be their refuge became their tomb.
- And once again, the stones remain “to this very day” as a reminder of the day’s amazing events.

From “My Dwelling Place” JOSHUA

“He freed me from the fowler’s
snare

Where sin and shame had
bound me

Deceived I’d made my refuge
there

Till fearless He came for me”

A sunset over a mountain range. The sun is a bright yellow-orange circle just above the horizon, partially obscured by a thin layer of clouds. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the sun to a dark blue at the top. The mountains in the foreground are silhouetted against the twilight sky.

And the Sun Finally
Sets on this
Momentous Day

Criticism of Joshua



William Dever:

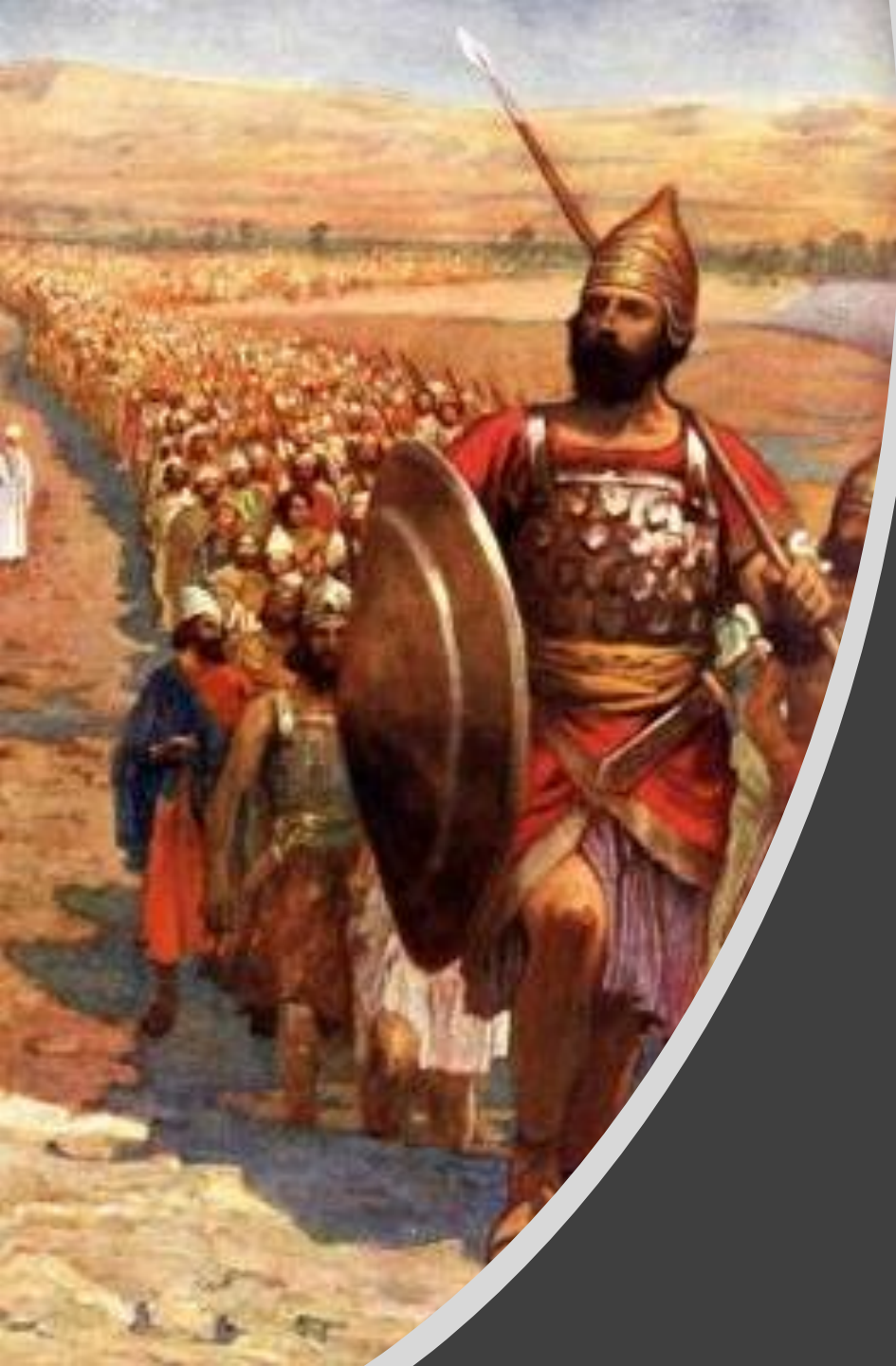
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“The external material evidence supports almost nothing of the biblical account of a large-scale, concerted Israelite military invasion of Canaan, either that of Numbers east of the Jordan, or of Joshua west of the Jordan.”

Deuteronomy 6:10-11

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10 “Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied



Joshua 10:28-39

When We Read This...

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**We Get The Idea That
The Conquest Was
Completed Almost
Overnight.**

That Is Not The Case.

Battle Strategy

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- All seven of these cities are in the southern portion of the Promised Land.
- Joshua has already cut the land in half by securing the middle section, including Jericho, Ai, Bethel, and Gibeon.
- This prevents the Canaanites from uniting in a full-scale resistance campaign against Israel.

Seven Cities Conquered

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1. Makkedah
2. Libnah
3. Lachish
4. Gezer
5. Eglon
6. Hebron
7. Debir

There are far more than 7 cities in southern Canaan. (Jerusalem isn't even mentioned here.)

Southern Campaign



Understand:

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The narrative of Joshua 10 describes a swift campaign that decimates much of the Canaanite population and places the area firmly under the thumb of Joshua and Israel.

However, Joshua 11:8 tells us that this war is not concluded in one fell swoop:

“Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings.”

But Also...

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**It is Going
Exactly
According to
God's Plan**

Exodus 23:29-30

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29 I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. **30** I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.

Deuteronomy 7:22

JOSHUA

22 The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for the wild beasts would grow too numerous for you.

Details are Important

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- Joshua 10:33 –

“Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish, and Joshua defeated him and his people until he had left him no survivor.”

Notice:

There is no mention of Joshua and the Israelites conquering the city of Gezer, only the army that came to fight with Lachish.

And Then We Read:

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- Joshua 16:10 –

“But they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites live in the midst of Ephraim to this day, and they became forced laborers.”

- Judges 1:29 –

“Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.”

Joshua 10:40-43

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40 Thus Joshua struck all the land, the hill country and the Negev and the lowland and the slopes and all their kings. He left no survivor, but he utterly destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. **41** Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon. **42** Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. **43** So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

Subdued Areas:

1. the hill country

2. the Negev

3. the lowland

4. the slopes



We Read:

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- “He left no survivor, but he utterly destroyed all who breathed”
- “Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time”
- However, the main point is this:
“the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel”

These Verses:

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- Are clearly summary statements to emphasize the success of the campaign and the faithfulness of the Lord in His fighting for Israel.
- Clearly later Scriptures in Joshua and Judges make clear that the Conquest was ongoing and always a struggle for Israel.



Germany Conquers France

May 10, 1940

Despite This Success

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- Some of these cities are either not entirely destroyed or they are repopulated by surrounding cities because of the negligence of the Israelites.
- **These include:**
 - Hebron (Josh. 15:13-14; Judges 1:9-10, 20)
 - Debir (Josh. 15:15-17; Judges 1:12-13)

For Example:

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- Sometimes land remained unconquered due to the Israelites' disobedience:
 - Judah's failure to dislodge the Jebusites from Jerusalem (15:63)
 - Ephraim's failure to dislodge the people of Gezer (16:10)
 - Manasseh's failure to occupy several towns (17:12).
- The entire opening chapter of Judges is a litany of Israelite failures to secure the land.

Two Truths from the Text

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1. Israel achieved a sweeping victory over the Canaanites in the South; no significant opposition remained.
2. The details of every last city in the land is not included, and it is acknowledged elsewhere that the conquest was indeed incomplete; there was much work to be done.

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