

# Joshua

## Lesson 11

### Chapter 10:29 - 11:23

Have you ever started a large project and did not know how to get started? Finally, with the project staring you in the face, circumstances cause you just to jump in the middle and work your way to both ends. That is exactly what has happened with the Nation of Israel in the conquest of the Promised Land. The five Amorite kings caused the nation to jump into the central conquest of the land. In this section of the Scripture, we find the nations taking the conquest in southern Canaan first, followed by northern Canaan second. These passages trace Joshua's campaign from city to city with just a snippet of detail about each. The land covered in these passages will take several years to complete. We will move through these passages quickly with little pause.

#### b) The Conquest in Southern Canaan (10:29-43)

##### (1) From Makkedah to Libnah (10:29-30)

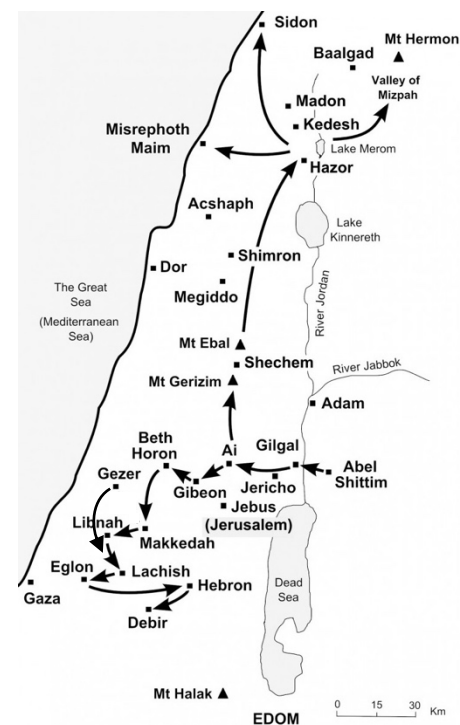
The campaign of Joshua and Israel was in full force. The conquest in southern Canaan could not wait. Joshua had slain the people of Makkedah and killed its king. From Makkedah to Libnah, the nation of Israel would march. Chapter 10, verse 29. *"Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah, and fought against Libnah. <sup>30</sup> The LORD gave it also with its king into the hands of Israel, and he struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor in it. Thus he did to its king just as he had done to the king of Jericho."* (10:29-30)

Libnah (*whiteness*) was a short distance west of Makkedah (*place of shepherds*). The attack on Libnah was in the same order of business as that of the previous cities. The king of Libnah was struck with the sword, hung on a tree, buried before sunset in a tomb built with the city's rubble.

##### (2) From Libnah to Lachish (10:31-33)

From Libnah to Lachish, Joshua marched. Verse 31. *"And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish, and they camped by it and fought against it. <sup>32</sup> The LORD gave Lachish into the hands of Israel; and he captured it on the second day, and struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. <sup>33</sup> Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish, and Joshua defeated him and his people until he had left him no survivor."* (10:31-33)

At Lachish (*invincible*), the nation camped outside the city for the night before acting the following day. All happened in Lachish as it had happened in Libnah, as it had happened in Jericho (*place of fragrance*), and all the other cities. There at Lachish, the king of Gezer (*a precipice*) arrived to fight with Libnah against the nation. Gezer was north of Libnah and northwest of Makkedah. However, Gezer and his men perished with Libnah. No mention of the king of Lachish is mentioned for a reason. He had hidden in the cave at Makkedah with the other kings. He died there and was buried. Lachish was without a king at the time of his cities defeat.



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### (3) From Lachish to Eglon (10:34-35)

From Lachish to Eglon, Joshua marched. Verses 34. *“And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon, and they camped by it and fought against it.”* <sup>37</sup> *They captured it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; and he utterly destroyed that day every person who was in it, according to all that he had done to Lachish.”* (10:34-35)

Eglon (*calf-like*) was almost due east of Lachish about two miles. When the nation arrives at Eglon and set camp, the nation moved that day to slay Eglon. There is no mention of the king of Eglon in this passage. He died with other kings from the cave in Makkedah. Eglon was without a king at the time of the destruction. The battle was handled just as all the previous.

### (4) From Eglon To Hebron (10:36-37)

From Eglon to Hebron, Joshua marched. Verse 36. *“Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron, and they fought against it.”* <sup>37</sup> *They captured it and struck it and its king and all its cities and all the persons who were in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor, according to all that he had done to Eglon. And he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it.”* (10:36-37)

Hebron (*alliance*) was about twenty miles east of Eglon. No mention of the king of Hebron is mentioned. He, too, was killed at Makkedah.

### (5) From Hebron to Debir (10:38-39)

From Hebron to Debir, Joshua marched. Verse 38. *“Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to Debir, and they fought against it.”* <sup>39</sup> *He captured it and its king and all its cities, and they struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed every person who was in it. He left no survivor. Just as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had also done to Libnah and its king.”* (10:38-39)

Do not be confused, Debir (*a sanctuary*) was the name of the king of Eglon killed at Makkedah; however, it was also the name of a city southwest of Hebron about ten miles.

### (6) From Debir to the Negev (10:40)

From Debir to the Negev (*to be dry*), Joshua marched. Verse 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.”* (10:40)

The writer does not record all cities and villages taken by the nation in the Negev. Because it was all the cities in all the Negev, it would include Kadish-barnea (*a holy place of desert wandering*), Gaza (*strong*), Beer-sheba (*well of seven*), Mizpe Ramon (*outlook of Ramon*), Dimonah (*wasting*), and Elat (*a grove*).

### (7) From the Negev to Goshen (10:41-42)

From the Negev to Goshen, Joshua marched. Verse 41. *“Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon.”* <sup>42</sup> *Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.”* (10:41-42)

Kadish-barnea and Gaza are located in the Negev. The writer uses them in this passage as boundary markers. Gaza was on the border of the Negev and the Philistine (*immigrants*) property. Draw a line from Gaza down to Kadish-barnea and drag that swath up to Goshen (*cultivated*), near Gibeon (*hill city*). It is not the land of Goshen. It is a city in the mountains of the area designated to the territory of Judah.

### (8) From Goshen to Gilgal (10:43)

From Goshen to Gilgal Joshua marched. Verse 43. *“So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.”* (10:43)

From Goshen to Gilgal (*rolling*), Joshua encountered not conflicts. Israel owned it all.

## Chapter 11

### c) The Conquest of Northern Canaan (11:1-15)

#### (1) From Gilgal to Merom (11:1-5)

The central and southern conquests were complete. The land was in the hands of Israel. The nation was at rest in Gilgal. It was now time for the conquest of Northern Canaan. From Gilgal to Merom (*height*), Joshua marched. Chapter 11, verse 1. *“Then it came about when Jabin king of Hazor heard of it, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon and to the king of Shimron and to the king of Achshaph,<sup>2</sup> and to the kings who were of the north in the hill country, and in the Arabah—south of Chinneroth and in the lowland and on the heights of Dor on the west—<sup>3</sup> to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Jebusite in the hill country, and the Hivite at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.<sup>4</sup> They came out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.<sup>5</sup> So all of these kings having agreed to meet, came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.”* (11:1-5)

All the kings north of the central area gathered together at the “waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.” The “waters of Merom” is also known as Lake Meron, north of the Cinnereth Sea which we know today as the Sea of Galilee.

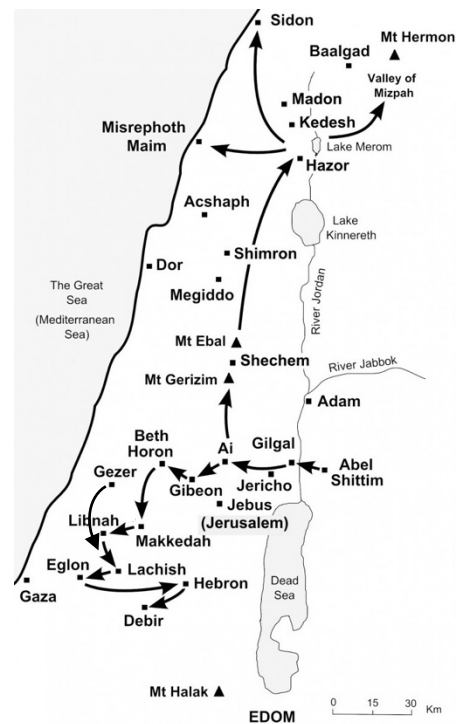
#### (2) From Merom to Sidon (11:6-9)

Joshua attacked the Canaanites at the Lake of Merom. Many of the Canaanites ran toward Sidon on the coast of the Great Sea. Joshua chased them there. Verse 6. *“Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow at this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”<sup>7</sup> So Joshua and all the people of war with him came upon them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and attacked them.<sup>8</sup> The LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, so that they defeated them, and pursued them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim and the valley of Mizpeh to the east; and they struck them until no survivor was left to them.<sup>9</sup> Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him; he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.”* (11:6-9)

The Nation of Israel was successful with the LORD’s help. Joshua did not kill the horses, he hamstrung them. How did he do that? He severed the tendons behind the knees of the horses on the hind legs.

#### (3) From Sidon to Hazor (11:10-15)

From Sidon to Hazor, Joshua marched back east from the coast. Verse 10. *“Then Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor formerly was the head of all these kingdoms.<sup>11</sup> They struck every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them; there was no one left who breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire.<sup>12</sup> Joshua captured all the cities of these kings, and all their kings, and he struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed them; just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.<sup>13</sup> However, Israel did not burn any cities that stood on their mounds, except Hazor alone, which Joshua burned.<sup>14</sup> All the spoil of these cities and the cattle, the sons of Israel took as their plunder; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They left no one who breathed.<sup>15</sup> Just as*



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*the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.*" (11:10-15)

It seems that the writer eliminated many details. Indeed, the LORD fought for the nation against northern Canaan, yet the men were still on foot, horse and cart. The march was harsh and long. Nevertheless, the nation captured all the land that Hazor (*castle*) once controlled and owned it as the Promised Land.

#### d) The Conquest of All Canaan (11:16-19a)

##### (1) The Extent of the Capture (11:16-18)

The writer gives a summary of the conquests of all Canaan and the extent of the capture. Verse 16. *"Thus Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negev, all that land of Goshen, the lowland, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel and its lowland<sup>17</sup> from Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir, even as far as Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings and struck them down and put them to death. <sup>18</sup>Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings."* (11:16-18)

If we make Goshen in Egypt the furthest point to the southwest of Israel and Mount Hermon the furthest point north of Israel, the Nation of Israel marched two-hundred and sixty-two miles if there was a road that ran from one to another. But no road did such. In addition, the nation fought all the way to the south of the Negev, one-hundred and forty-four miles. Then we must consider that the nation covered every foot of the full width of Canaan Land from north to south, much more than eight-thousand square miles. All the Canaanites were destroyed. All the kings were killed. It took Joshua a long time.

##### (2) The Exception of the Capture (11:19a)

With the extent of the capture, we come to the exception of the capture. Verse 19a. *"There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon...."* (11:19a)

##### (3) The Extermination of the Capture (11:19b-22)

###### (a) The Destruction of the Canaanites (11:19b-20)

After mentioning the exception of the capture, the writer returns to tell the extermination of the capture. He speaks first of the destruction of the Canaanites. Verse 19b. *"... they took them all in battle. <sup>20</sup>For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses."* (11:19b-20)

###### (b) The Destruction of the Anakim (11:21-22)

Second, the writer speaks of the destruction of the Anakim. Verse 21. *"Then Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab and from all the hill country of Judah and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. <sup>22</sup>There were no Anakim left in the land of the sons of Israel; only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod some remained."* (11:21-22)

Before the time of Joshua's campaign, the Anakim lived in southern Canaan, with Hebron being the city nearest their dwellings. The name "*Anakim*" means *long-necked*. It is often said that these were giants, and their presences surely scared the majority of the spies that Moses sent to Hebron to spy out the land; they were a race of large people with long necks but were probably not of the giants that will be known in the future associated with Goliath. (Numbers 13:28; Deuteronomy 9:2) Anak was the father of the tribe that grew to be known as the Anakim. It seems that the race grew over time and was divided into three groups - Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi. After Joshua destroys all the Anakim except those found in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod, cities in the Philistine territory, we will hear of them in Judges 1:20. After that, they will not be mentioned again.

#### (4) The Expiration of the Capture (11:23)

From the extermination of the capture, the writer ends with the expiration of the capture. Verse 23. *“So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.”* (11:23)

The war was over. The land was taken and belonged to the Nation of Israel. But, as we will see, not all the land Joshua could have taken was taken. But for now, the nation is back at the camp in Gilgal, where the Promised Land will be divided among the tribes and families.