

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED
A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

The Conquest Continues—the Northern Kingdoms Joshua 11 & 12

“Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand them over to Israel.” Josh. 11:6

Read Joshua 11.

1. The events recorded in Joshua 11 are not for the faint-hearted. Read Gen. 18:25. What can you conclude about the Canaanites?

What does this say about the Lord? (Neh. 9:33)

2. In the days of Sodom, there were not even ten righteous people to be found in the whole city to stay God's hand of wrath (Gen. 18:32). In Noah's day, the world had likewise become totally corrupt (Gen. 6:5, 11). How long did God wait before destroying the Canaanites of Joshua's day? Why? (Gen. 15:13-16; Deut. 9:4-5; 2 Pet. 3:9)
3. What future, cosmic event are these Canaanite cities—and their punishments—a foretaste of? (2 Pet. 3:7)
4. In light of the coming judgment, how has God shown his mercy to us? (Rom. 2:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:20b-21)

Read Joshua 11:1-15.

5. How formidable are the northern kingdoms that are about to attack Israel? (v. 4)
6. How does God encourage Joshua in the face of this daunting military machine? (v. 6)
7. How does Joshua respond to God's words? (vv. 7-9)
8. What theme runs through the book of Joshua, and this chapter in particular? (vv. 9, 15)

Read Joshua 11:7-23.

9. Why do you think God has Israel destroy the chariots and hamstring (cripple) the horses after the battle? (v. 9; Ps. 20:6-7)

10. Who is it that both initiates and wins the battle against the Canaanites? (vv. 8, 20)

11. What was the last group of people to be eliminated from the land? (vv. 21-22)

What was the significance of listing this as the last group? (Deut. 9:2-3) (book icon) Num. 13:25-33)

12. The theme of God as promise-keeper is a major one in Joshua. What promise does the author emphasize in his summary statement in verse 23? (Gen. 15:18,19; Ex. 33:1-2)

Read Joshua 12.

13. Chapter 12 is a kind of appendix to the first 11 chapters, a review of Israel's conquests and a complete list of the defeated kings.
 - a. The first two kings listed (vv. 2, 4) were conquered on the eastern side of the Jordan River. What tribes benefited from those victories? (v. 6) (book icon) 1:12-15)

 - b. The remaining list almost reads like a scoreboard, with Joshua and all Israel defeating the kings 31-0. What does this list reveal about God's character, once again?

14. With these battles against the godless nations won, the land now has its rest from war (11:23b). How is this a foreshadowing of the rest we have in Christ? (Heb. 4:8-11)