



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
November/December, 2019

Believing God

The book of Joshua is divided into two parts. **Joshua 1-12** presents the conquest of the land. **Joshua 13-24** details the settlement of the land. In **Joshua 10**, Israel has conquered southern Canaan. Now in **Joshua 11**, Israel engages the forces of northern Canaan. What truths does God have for us in this northern campaign? I would ask you to consider these truths:

The Opposition (1-5)

The news of Israel's victory over the southern forces spread quickly. Their crushing victory in the south alarmed the rest of the land. It prompted Jabin king of Hazor to form his own coalition of the northern peoples of Canaan (1-3). Jabin was the dominant king of the north. He organized a desperate attempt to stop the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites.

In **11:4**, we are given a description of this opposition, "And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many." It looked hopeless

for Israel. This northern coalition had numerical strength, "people, even as the sand upon the sea shore in multitude." At the same time, they had the technological advantage, "with horses and chariots, very many." They had devastating weapons of war.

On top of this, they were poised in a strategic position, "And when all the kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel" (11:5). They could sweep down into the Jordan Valley and attack Joshua at Gilgal. It would be a fierce and furious attack that Joshua and Israel could not withstand.

As you read these opening verses, you can almost feel how hopeless the situation is. Line upon line, the text points to the overwhelming advantage that the northern forces had. However, I believe that's how the Holy Spirit inspired it to be written. He wants us to see how hopeless it was.

That leads me to a point of application. *The more desperate the situation, the more the power of God can*

shine. It was a desperate situation. Yet, this provided a canvas on which God would gloriously reveal His power. When you find yourself in a desperate situation, don't despair. Don't give up. Acknowledge that this is an opportunity for God to make His glorious power known. God's power is almighty, more powerful than any situation however desperate it seems.

At the same time, *God's promises are greater than any of your problems*. It's interesting that this northern force is described as "the sand upon the sea shore." This is a reminder of God's covenant promise. God had promised Abraham that all his descendants would be "as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies" (**Genesis 22:17**). God promised that Abraham's descendants would be as the sand on the seashore and that they would possess the gates of their enemy. These forces were great; God's promises were even greater!

God has given you a Bible full of promises. You can claim and trust those promises. Whatever the problem, whatever the need, His promises are greater than them all. No matter how great the problem, God's promise is even greater.

The Obedience (6-9)

Joshua received word that this northern coalition had been formed and

encamped at the waters of Merom. At the same time, the LORD gave him an amazing promise, "Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hock (hamstring) their horses, and burn their chariots with fire" (**11:6**).

It's important to notice Joshua's reaction, "So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them" (**11:7**). Joshua went on the offensive! He didn't wait for the enemy to come to him. He pressed hard and attacked the enemy with sudden surprise. Why would he do this? It's because he believed God.

That's the point: *There's a difference between believing in God and believing God*. Joshua believed God would keep His promise. That's why he went on the offensive. He didn't simply believe in God. He had a personal faith that trusted God. He personally trusted God and His willingness and ability to keep His Word.

You can believe in God without believing God. You can have an intellectual assent that God exists. You can believe what He reveals about Himself. However, when you believe God, you lay hold on His promises. You seek Him. You act in faith. Believing God is responding to Him. It's not enough simply to believe in Him. You must believe Him personally, trusting Him, accepting His Word, and acting on His Word.

This also points us to another application: **Real faith is manifested in obedience.** How do we know that Joshua believed God? He acted. He marched against this overwhelming force, attacked them, and gained victory over them (**11:8-9**). His faith was manifested his going to battle and defeating these northern forces.

We can also see this in how Joshua acted after the victory. Joshua destroyed the city of Hazor (**11:9-13**). It was the primary city in this coalition. Yet, he didn't destroy the other cities. He left these so that they could live in them after the conquest. This lines up with what God had already taught them (**Deuteronomy 6:10**). He believed God's Word and carried it out.

Real faith acts. It manifests itself in works. There's no such thing as faith without works, without action. When you believe God, you're going to listen to Him, obey Him, and live for Him.

In this text, there's one other application that I want to point out to you. *God wants our faith to rest solely in Him.* He wants us to cast off all hope in ourselves. He desires that we trust in Him above anything or anybody else.

Why do I say this? It's because of God's command to hamstring the horses and destroy the chariots (**11:9**). Why would God command them to do this? It would render the horses incapable of pulling a chariot. By destroying the chariots, they couldn't use them.

If they didn't destroy the horses and chariots, they would be tempted to use them. Then they would trust in the horses and chariots more than the Lord. God wanted to remove this temptation. He desired that they trust in Him solely, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God" (**Psalms 20:7**).

He has the same desire for you. He wants your trust to be in Him above all others. He longs for your eyes to be focused on Him and who He is. He desires that you remember His name and rest in who He is and what He can do. Call on Him now. Tell Him that you love Him and that you want your faith, your trust, to be in Him above all others. Ask Him to be a living example of Psalm 20:7.

World Prayer Plan

January

- 1-Afghanistan-The Church
- 2-Afghanistan-The Lost
- 3-Albania
- 4-Algeria
- 5-American Samoa
- 6-Andorra
- 7-Angola
- 8-Anguilla
- 9-Antigua
- 10-Argentina-The Church
- 11-Argentina-The Lost
- 12-Armenia
- 13-Aruba
- 14-Australia-The Church

15-Australia-The Lost
 16-Austria-The Church
 17-Austria-The Lost
 18-Azerbaijan
 19-Bahamas
 20-Bangladesh
 21-Barbados
 22-Belgium
 23-Belize
 24-Benin
 25-Bermuda
 26-Bhutan
 27-Bolivia-The Church
 28-Bolivia-The Lost
 29-Botswana
 30-Brazil-The Church
 31-Brazil-The Lost

February

1-British Virgin Islands
 2-Brunei
 3-Bulgaria
 4-Burkina Faso
 5-Burundi
 6-Byelarus
 7-Cambodia
 8-Cameroon
 9-Canada-The Church
 10-Canada-The Lost
 11-Cape Verde Islands
 12-Cayman Islands
 13-Central African Republic
 14-Chad
 15-Channel Islands
 16-Chile
 17-China-The Church

18-China-The Lost
 19-China-Persecuted Believers
 20-China-Spiritual Warfare
 21-China-Missionaries
 22-China-Agencies Working in China
 23-China-Provision of Bibles
 24-China-Christian Literature
 25-China-Conversion of Soldiers
 26-China-Collapse of Communism
 27-China-Taiwan
 28-Colombia-The Church

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