

“The Last Campaign of a Great Leader”

Joshua chapter 10 v 29 – 11 v23

Scripture Ref: Eph 6:12; Gen 15:13-16; Matt 26:52; Matt 10:34; Rev 19:11-16

Wrapping up the Southern Campaign

Josh 10:29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to **Libnah; and they fought against Libnah. 30 And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel;** he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to **Lachish;** and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of **Gezer** came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining.

34 From Lachish Joshua passed to **Eglon,** and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to **Hebron;** and they fought against it. 37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword -- its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to **Debir;** and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

40 So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. 41 And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. 42 All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. **43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.**

1. (R&R) After these six campaigns, I'm sure that the men needed a breather, a rest,
 - a. a time to be rested and refreshed..
 - b. to sharpen the swords if you will

2. We all need this – but that does not mean that the campaign is over...

Joshua 11 The Northern Coalition

11:1 And it came to pass, when Jabin king of **Hazor** heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of **Madon**, to the king of **Shimron**, to the king of **Achshaph**, 2 and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of **Merom** to fight against Israel.

3. Once again a powerful enemy has heard the things that God has done... and it incites this powerful king to action – against God’s people

- a. **“The tactic of Satan” - We too have an enemy, and when he see’s God working through His people, it incites him to action – AGAINST Gods people**

4. We just had a Women’s Day, and God did some incredible things through that day...

- a. **If you are here and your wife was a part of that, let me ask you a question... did you encounter any attacks in the week or so before Saturday?**
- b. **I can tell you we did – and Satan always tries to hit us in our weakest place – WHY?**
- c. **I think Satan knows that...**
 - i. **He has already been defeated**
 - ii. **He does not stand a chance against the Lord**
 - iii. **He does not stand a chance against a child of God who is standing in the strength of the Lord**
- d. **And so he’ll and hit a weak area in the chance that he can knock you down before you realize what’s happening**

5. Satan will gather his forces, put them in the valley and align them against you – and try to hit you full force with the hope of knocking you out...

- a. **And sadly – many Christians get knocked out of the running with this tactic.**

***Eph 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

- b. **And his weapons are not spears and arrows, but pride and anger and self-centeredness (IOW – I am not getting what I want)...**
 - c. **And we get all stirred up and we start getting ill and angry and people and situations**
 - d. **and our spouses and our fellow Christians become the problem...**
 - e. **And guess what – we are knocked out of the campaign...**
 - f. **Not because Satan overpowered us – or much less God – but because he deceived us – he blinded us with our own feelings...**
6. **It is critical that a Christian...**
- a. **#1 – Recognize the enemy**
 - b. **#2 – Believe in the victory that we have in Christ over the enemy**

6 But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. 8 And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. **9 So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.**

7. **I really like Joshua because Joshua did not make decisions based on what he felt – he simply “did to them as the LORD had told him”**
- a. **And God delivered this entire consortium of kings into Joshua’s hands – they left NONE of them remaining.**
 - b. **Then Joshua turned back to Hazor – the stronghold...**

Why Hazor had to Burn

10 Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for **Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.** 11 And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. **Then he burned Hazor with fire.** 12 So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. **13 But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned.**

8. **Not to read too much into the scripture – but there is a reason that Joshua burned Hazor and not the others...**
- a. **Hazor was the head – Hazor was the seat of power**
 - b. **It was the center of the “axis of evil” in that area**

9. There is a lesson here – every stronghold has a root – a seat of power – in the life of the person who is in bondage
 - a. IOW – there is a ROOT - some sin that is there – some area that has been shielded from the blood of Christ
 - b. Something that the person – either knowingly or not – is holding back on...
10. Perhaps a hurt that been done in the past – Sometimes a person will not forgive, because that would mean letting go of a feeling of superiority,
 - a. or it allows them to remain a victim and receive compassion
 - b. or it allows them to justify sinful behaviors
 - c. or is allows them to harbor a possible future opportunity to confront and put that person in their place
11. Perhaps a secret sin that a person is unwilling to stop fulfilling –
 - a. And that secret sin becomes the seat of power for that stronghold
 - b. I have even seen instances where a person wants to keep the OPTION of something open, perhaps leaving their husband or wife, so they never release that area and confess it to God –
 - c. And so the stronghold remains...
12. Whatever it is, **IT MUST BE DESTROYED – burn it with fire!**

The Secret of Joshua's Success

14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing. **15 As 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.**

13. Joshua's belief was the key to their success, but his obedience was the key to receiving that success.
 - a. "He left nothing undone". This to me is a man that not only obeys....
 - b. Remember the beginning...
 - i. Joshua obeyed Immediately
 - ii. Joshua obeyed Completely
 - iii. Joshua obeyed Without grumbling or complaining
14. And I think it is interesting how it is stated here: *"He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses"*
 - a. This was Moses original task, and it was handed to Joshua to work for a while, and later God will release Joshua and instruct others to complete the task.

- b. But the point I want to make is this – how often can we get hung up on “my call, my role, my work”, and we forget – it is not our work but Gods work.
- c. Joshua understood – he was a participant in God’s work!
- d. We are participants in what God is doing, and if He looks into our heart and see’s that we can be faithful stewards, He’ll let us be a part of HIS work!
- e. We might pick where one left off, and then hand it over when our time is done.

The Destruction of the Canaanites

16 Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain -- the mountains of Israel and its lowlands, 17 from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed 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, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others 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 utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.**

21 And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. 22 None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.

15. One of the things about the bible that really hangs people up is “Why did God advocate the destruction of these people?”

- a. Some people have a hard time reconciling God in the OT with Jesus in the NT –

16. First – and we have talked about this before – these people were not a community of upstanding citizens.

- a. Great Sin - Their sins were many and were deeply imbedded – Lev 18 gave us a list...
 - i. Incest, adultery, child sacrifice, homosexuality, bestiality
 - ii. Their evil had so thoroughly infected their society that the only option was radical surgery.
- b. Time for Repentance - God gave them 400 years to repent

Gen 15:13-16

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

17. There must be judgment for sin

- a. **We need to remember that the God of the OT is the same God of the NT**
- b. **IOW – Yes, Jesus came as a servant, He came to bring not the sword but to bring salvation**
- c. **Jesus is often quoted -**

***Matt 26:52** "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*

- d. **But He ALSO said...**

***Matt 10:34** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

- e. **IOW – Yes - Jesus came to bring peace and love and eternal life to all who would REPENT and RECEIVE Him...**
- f. **But that is not the entire picture of Jesus....**
- g. **HE also is a the Righteous Judge and will make war with the enemies of God..**

Rev 19:11-16

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

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