

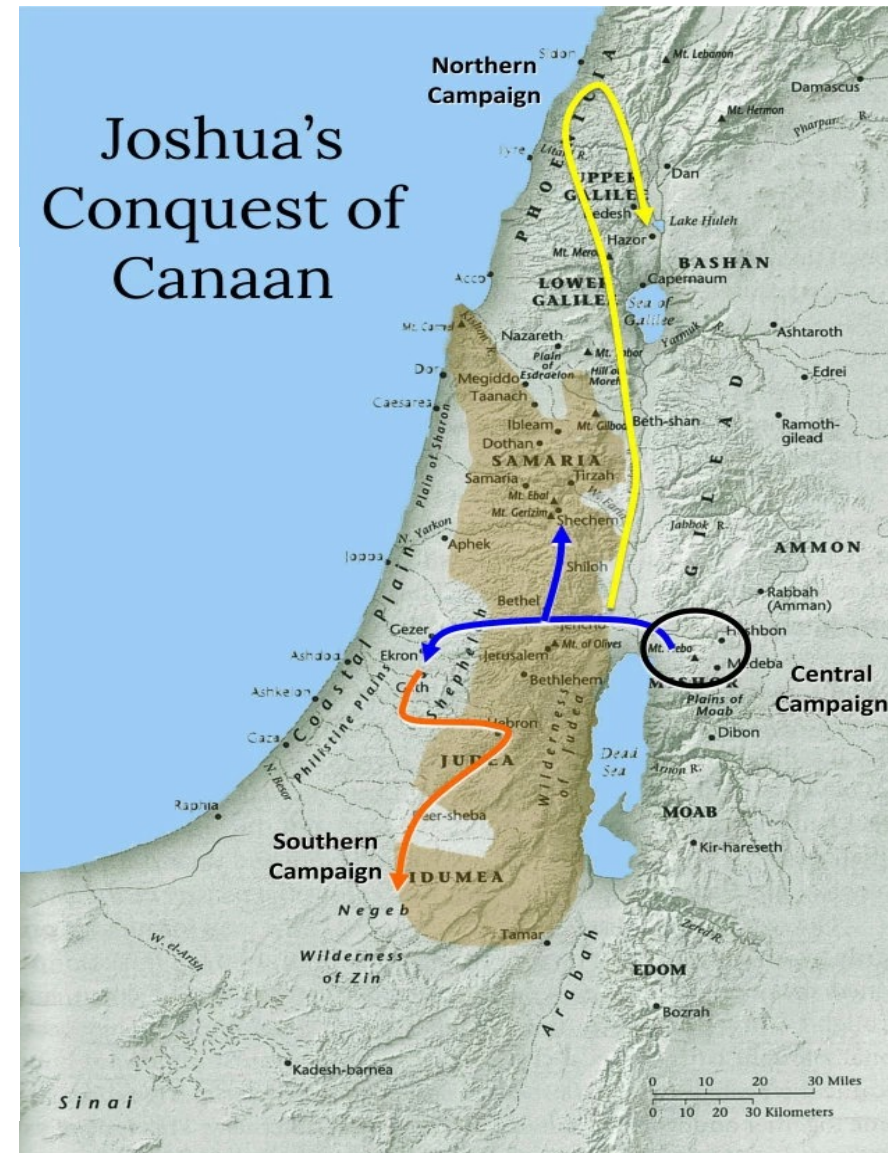
Joshua (6)

Conquering Your Enemies



Joshua at a glance

- Book of Joshua
 - Preparation to take the land; crossing the Jordan (Joshua 1-5).
 - **Conquest the land (Joshua 6-12).**
 - Dividing the land (Joshua 13-21).
 - Joshua's final speech (Joshua 22-24).
- The conquest of the land in three campaigns
 - **Central Campaign** (Joshua 2-8): Jericho, Ai, Bethel.
 - **Southern Campaign**: Defeat of the coalition of the 5 kings at the battle of Gibeon; A total of 14 kings were conquered (Joshua 10, 12:10-16).
 - **Northern Campaign**: Hazor, Merom, Shimron, Achshaph, Chinneroth, Dor. A total of 15 kings were conquered (Joshua 11, 12:17-24).
 - A total of 31 kings were conquered (Kings Sihon and Og not included).



Defeated 31 Kings

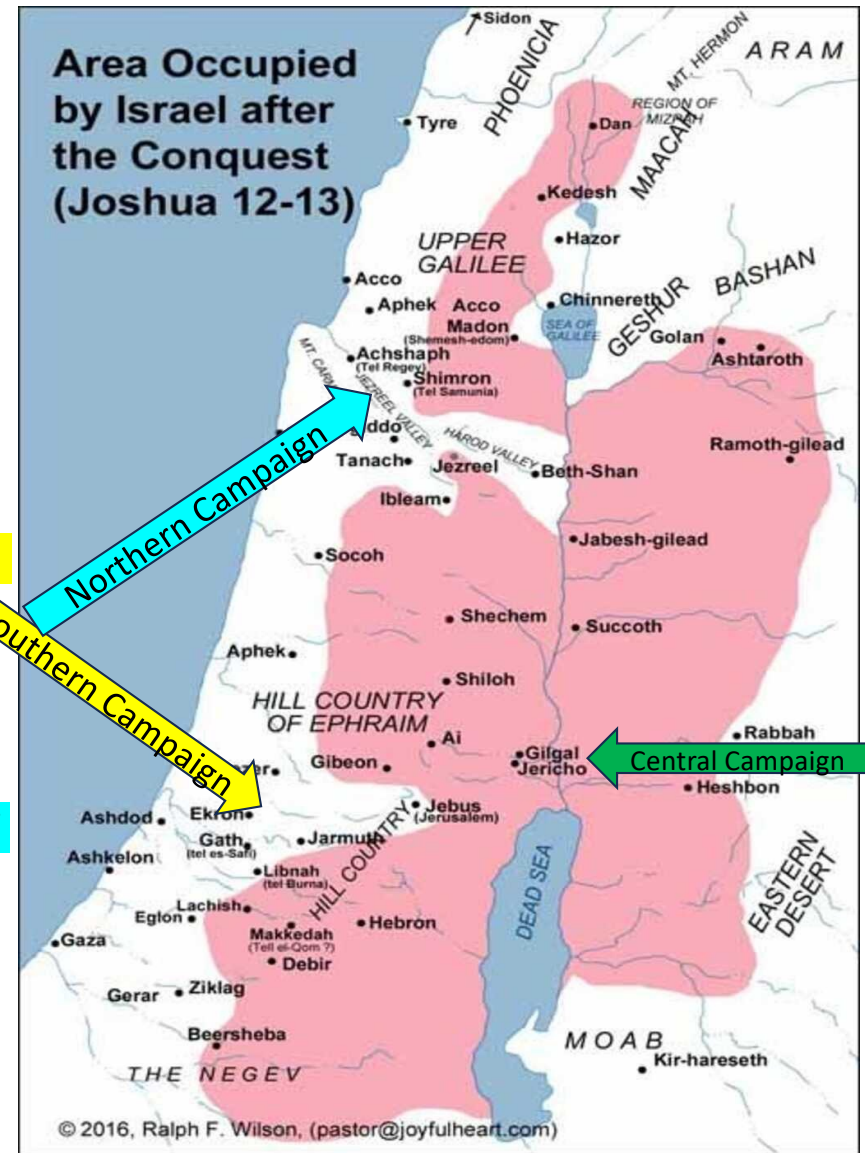
These are the kings Israel defeated:

The king of Jericho; The king of Ai (near Bethel);

The king of Jerusalem; The king of Hebron; The king of Jarmuth; The king of Lachish; The king of Eglon; The king of Gezer; The king of Debir; The king of Geder; The king of Hormah; The king of Arad; The king of Libnah; The king of Adullam; The king of Makkedah; The king of Bethel;

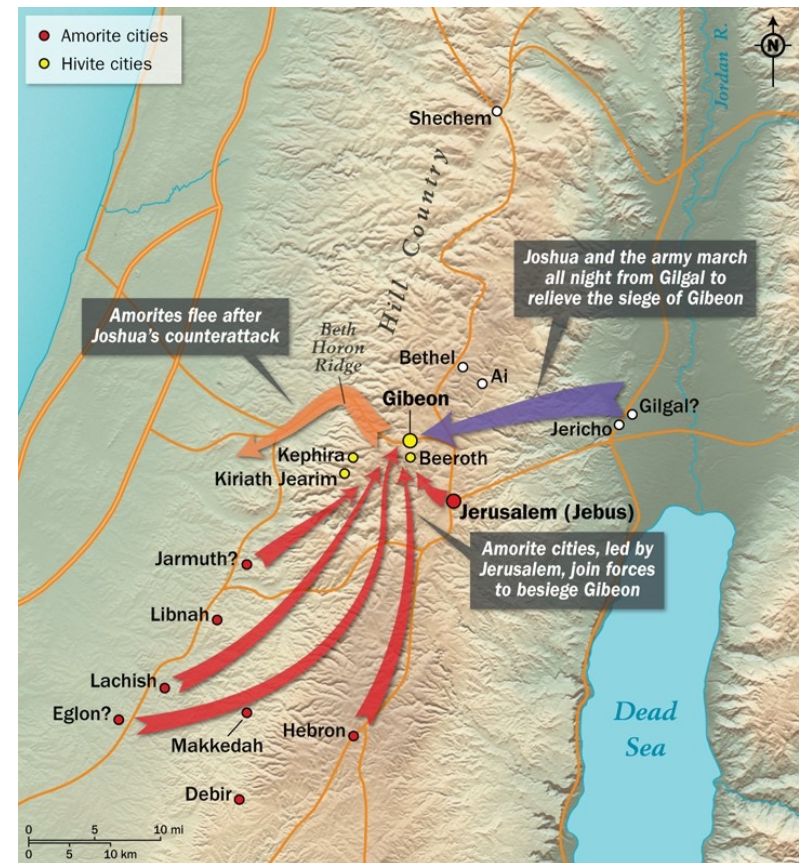
The king of Tappuah; The king of Hepher; The king of Aphek; The king of Lasharon; The king of Madon; The king of Hazor; The king of Shimron-meron; The king of Acshaph; The king of Taanach; The king of Megiddo; The king of Kedes; The king of Jokneam in Carmel; The king of Dor in the town of Naphoth-dor; The king of Goyim in Gilgal; The king of Tirzah.

In all, thirty-one kings were defeated (Joshua 12:8-24).



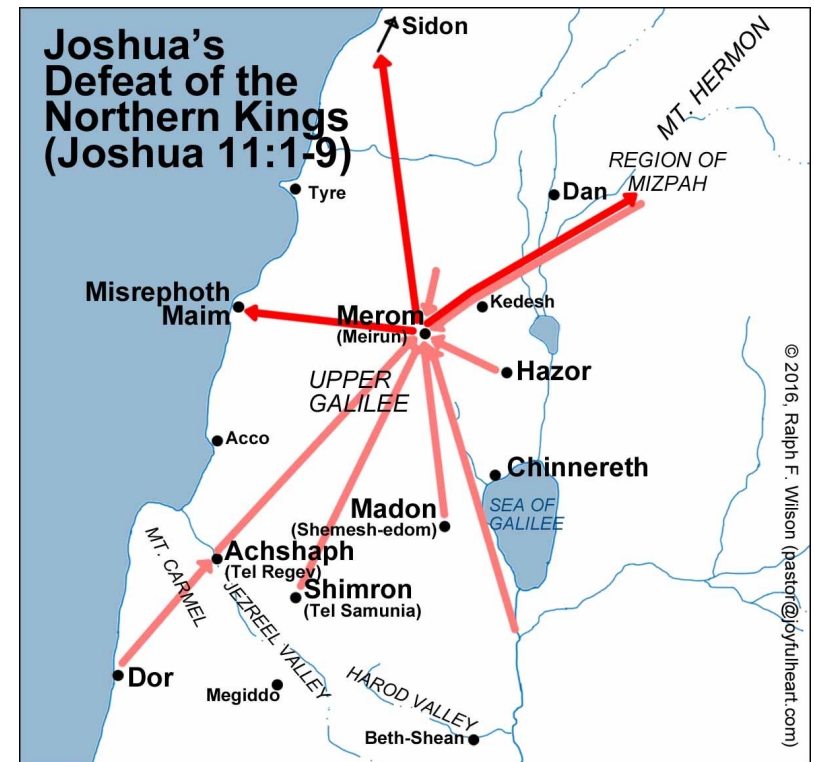
The Southern Campaign (Joshua 10)

- The battle of Gibeon
 - Adoni-Zedek (the king of Jerusalem) formed a coalition with four other Amorite kings (Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish & Eglon).
 - The Gibeonites sent word to Joshua for help. Joshua and his army marched out from Gilgal to Gibeon.
 - The Lord threw the Amorite armies into confusion, sent hailstones. All five kings hid together in a cave at Makkedah, but they were executed.
- Cities conquered
 - Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, Debir were conquered. The defeat of five kings showed that God was directly involved in Israel's conquest.
 - Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all the kings (Joshua 10:40).



The Northern Campaign

- The coalition of northern kings
 - Jabin (king of Hazor) formed a large coalition with kings from Madon, Shimron, Achshaph and others. The combined forces were vast, with many troops, horses and chariots.
 - The Lord commanded Joshua to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.
 - Joshua launched a surprise attack on the coalition at the Waters of Merom; captured Hazor, pursue them all the way to Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the valley of Mizpah until no survivors were left (Joshua 11:8).
- Southern vs. northern campaign
 - While the southern campaign involved a series of battles against different cities, the northern campaign involved one massive battle as numerous as the sand on the seashore (11:4) and more technologically advanced enemies (horses and chariots).



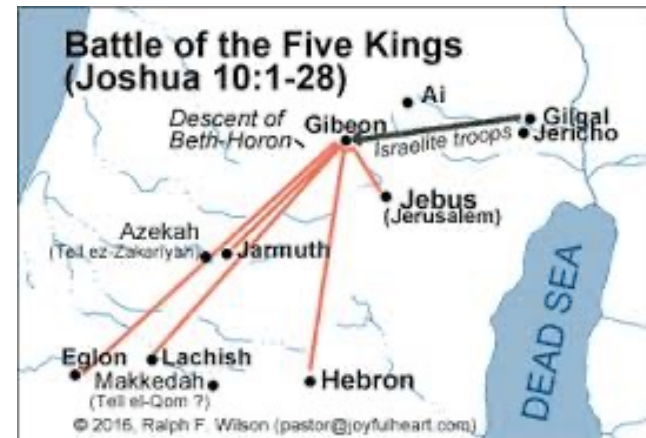
- Peace in the land
 - After defeating all the kings and taking their lands, the land had rest from war.
 - Israelites take control of the Promised Land, fulfilling the covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God's Interventions in the Battle

- God threw the armies of the five kings into panic when they saw the Israelites
 - The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them (Joshua 10:10).
- God sent hailstones to assail and kill the enemy
 - The LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites (Joshua 10:11).
- In answer to Joshua's prayer, God made the daylight last long enough to win
 - Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon"...The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day (Joshua 10:12-13).
- God showed His miracles to help Israel in invisible ways
 - The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots." (Joshua 11:6).

The Importance of Gilgal in Joshua

- “Today I have removed from you the disgrace of being slaves in Egypt.” That is why the place was named Gilgal (Joshua 5:9).
- Gilgal was the first place Joshua and the children of Israel camped after crossing of the Jordan river (Joshua 4:19).
- Israel set up twelve large stones at Gilgal (Joshua 4:20-24).
- All Israelites were circumcised at Gilgal (Joshua 5:2-9).
- Israelites celebrated the Passover at Gilgal (Joshua 5:10-12).
- The base of operations for Israelites’ conquest of the land (Joshua 10:6-15, 40-43).
- Gilgal was still a place of worship to offer sacrifices to the Lord (1 Samuel 10:8, 11:15).



- Gilgal: Spiritual meanings
 - A place of new beginning;
 - A place of memorial;
 - A place of consecration and change;
 - A base camp for many battles against enemies;
- Where is your Gilgal? How would you build Gilgal in your life?

Summary of Kings Defeated by Israel (Joshua 12)

Defeated by Moses (12:1-6)

- Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the Israelites had destroyed the people of King Sihon and King Og. And Moses gave their land as a possession to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (Joshua 12:6).
- The victories over the kings Sihon and Og were foundational for Israel.
- It provides with the confidence that God would continue to fight for Israelites as they encountered the most formidable Canaanite kings and fortified cities west of Jordan.
- It ensures that they destroy the inhabitants as they did east of Jordan to avoid the influences of idolatry and corruption.

Defeated by Joshua (12:7-24)

- In all, thirty-one kings were defeated (12:24).
- The list serves as a historical record, a theological affirmation of God's promises and a source of encouragement and unity for the Israelite people.
- It shows the completion of the work that Moses began, fulfilling the mandate to possess the entire Promised land.
- The Canaanite kings/cities were judged for their iniquity. Their defeat by Israel is presented as an act of divine judgement by which the Israelites were instruments of God's justice in the region.

Three Spiritual Lessons

- To win in large spiritual battles, first be faithful in the small ones
 - After God led Israel to defeat the kingdoms of southern area, they faced an even bigger test in northern area who had a technological advantage with horse-drawn chariots.
 - Are you being faithful in the small things so that He can use you for the larger battles?
- When you face your spiritual enemies, remember God's promises
 - God told Joshua not to fear continually and trust God.
 - Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand (Joshua 1:9, 8:1, 10:8, 10:25).
 - Are you trusting in God when you are facing a doubt in yourself?
- Trust in God's faithfulness and sovereignty in life's battles
 - God fights for His people and ensures their victory when they are faithful and obedient to His command
 - By relying on His strength, Christians can experience victory and peace, knowing that God's sovereign and will work all things for good.

Joshua's Leadership

- Persistence and perseverance
 - Completing the conquest of the land took 7 years, a lengthy duration for a such a task, especially for an old man (Joshua was in his mid-70s)..
 - Joshua's leadership was marked by persistence. He did not give up despite the many challenges he faced.
 - Joshua's determination in the face of numerous battles and setbacks illustrates the importance of perseverance in achieving God's purposes.
- Application Points
 - Encouraging perseverance: Motivate your congregation to remain steadfast in their faith and ministry efforts, even when faced with difficulties.
 - Leading with determination: Show unwavering commitment to your congregation's mission, demonstrating that persistence leads to success.
 - Overcoming obstacles: Teach practical ways to overcome challenges, drawing on biblical examples and personal experiences.