

1. Joshua burned the city of Hazor. Why?
2. In v6, why would God tell Joshua to burn the enemy's chariots with fire?
3. Why did the author use hyperbole to describe the enemy army's size in v11:4?
4. How do you process/apply/understand **Ps. 20:7**?

God's wrath is real and rests upon his enemies. Joshua chapters 10-11 covers the conquering of the land of Canaan. It took several chapters to get across the Jordan, to defeat Jericho, Ai. Things moved slowly. By ch10, things really pick up.

### The Southern and Northern Conquests

SIMILARITIES OF THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CONQUESTS. Both:

- begin with a coalition against Israel.
- have a promise of Yahweh giving enemies to Israel.
- have coalitions formed to come against Israel
- have coalitions met with a surprise attack by Israel.
- have these coalitions routed by Israel.
- saw Israel follow the initial battle with a systematic campaign in which all people devoted to destruction.
- accounts are a summary: Israel's taking control of the land. Sweeping, hyperbolic language. The land was Israel's, but it was not empty.

DIFFERENCES:

- Northern conquest seems to have been much larger
- Northern conquest seems longer
- In the north, Hazor was burned. Only 3: +Jericho, Ai
- Likely because Hazor "formerly was the head of all those kingdoms" (11:10).
- Hazor was important city; its burning symbolized Israel's overthrow of northern power.
- Remainder of the cities were left as a fulfillment of Yahweh's promise to Israel.

**Deut. 6:10-11** "when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full."

### Faith is contingent upon its object

**10:8** "And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."

**11:6** "And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel."

Elijah vs. prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel

**1 Kings 18:26-29** "And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of

Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered..."

**6b** "You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."... **9** And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

**Psalm 20:7** "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."

Nothing wrong with technology or means; there is, however, an ever-present temptation to place our trust in the good gifts we've been given instead of the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

### Faith is not a momentary exercise but a permanent disposition

Original battle was brief, the campaign that followed was a protracted engagement: "Joshua made war a long time with all those kings" (11:18). Maybe 7 years?

**Deut. 7:22** "The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little..."

**Deut. 23:29-30** "I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive..."

A disposition of faith will lead to repeated particular expressions of that faith. In every moment, our faith is to inform our decisions. Never depend on our strength or wisdom. *Trust in the Lord!*

**2 Corinthians 5:6-7** "So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight."

### Faith is expressed in obedience, not inactivity

**10:40-42** "So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb ... He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

**11:12-15** "And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. 13 But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. ... 15 Just 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.

Consider **James 2:14-26**. What is your duty?

When we disobey, it is because we lack faith. We lack faith because we doubt either God's power, his goodness, his worth, or his existence. When we don't trust God, we will necessarily trust something or someone else. We act on what we truly believe.

*Faith is the divinely administered condition of the covenant of grace.*