

Joshua

Sermon Notes – March 15, 2020

[#15] *Not by Chariots, Horses or Giants*

Joshua 11–12

COVID 19 - Love Not Fear

Isaiah 41:8–10

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; ⁹ you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; ¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

As Christians we do not operate out of fear but out of Love

Here are the facts we considered in making our decision:

- The logic of social distancing
- Those over 60 years of age are higher risk
- Those already medically compromised are higher risk
- Many who get the virus may be unaware they have it
- Our choice out of love for our congregation and our community

(11:1–23) Much is the Same... (3 Points)

Notes:

I. Victory Over the Northern Alliance (11:1–9)

- A. Enemy build up (1-5)
- B. God promises to give them victory

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.*” ⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up *all night* from Gilgal.



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. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.**”

- C. Joshua & “all his warriors” attack with obedient boldness

10:10 And **the Lord threw them into a panic before Israel,** ~~who~~ (and) struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.



⁷ So **Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them** by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. ⁸ And **the Lord**

gave them into the hand of Israel, ~~who~~ and struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. And **they** struck them until **he** left none remaining.

II. Widespread Victory in Northern Canaan (11:10–20)

A. Burned Hazor, Despoiled the Cities, Killed the Inhabitants (10-15)

¹³ But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. ¹⁴ And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. 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.**

B. Joshua “Took” the Land (16-20)

¹⁶ ***So Joshua took all that land...*** [no peace except Gibeon] ²⁰ For it was the LORD’s doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

The emphasis in Joshua 10 is on the fact that Joshua ‘took’ (Heb., *lakad*) the land or cities. To be sure, he ‘smote’ (*nakah*) populations and ‘put them under the ban’ (from the root *hm*); but the overall emphasis is that Joshua took the cities and land (vv. 28, 32, 35, 37, 39, 42). This verb (*lakad*) must be carefully distinguished from various forms of *yarash* (to possess, dispossess, drive out), which dominates **Judges** and denotes effective occupation of territory. Much of the problem of the conquest arises from a failure to distinguish the freight these two verbs carry. What has been ‘lakaded’ may need to be ‘re-lakaded’ later; but what has been ‘yarashed’ has been definitely nailed down.ⁱ

III. Special Highlight: Anakim (11:21–22)

Original Meaning

1. God’s Authority & Supernatural Power
2. Covenant Loyalty/Faithfulness
 - a. God Keeps his Promises (Joshua & Israel)
 - b. Joshua’s Obedience to Moses’s Law
 - c. All Israel’s Obedience to Moses’s Law

What is Different? (11:1–23)

I. Bigger...

A. Size, Horses & Chariots

⁴ And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. ...

⁹ And **Joshua** did to them just as the Lord said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

B. Victory Over the Giants (Anakim) (11:21–22)

II. Longer

¹⁸ *Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.*

(Seven Years?) ⁱⁱ

III. Rest from War

²³ So *Joshua took the whole land*, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. *And the land had rest from war.*

List of Conquered Kings & Land (12:1–24)

I. 2 Kings Defeated by Moses (12:1–6)

II. 31 Kings Defeated by Joshua (12:7–24)

Author's Main Point for Israel:

To commend the enduring covenant-loyalty of **Yahweh, Joshua & Israel** to future generations.

We Also Have Need of Endurance

The faithfulness of God the Father and the endurance of Jesus strengthen us to finish well.

To Finish Well...

I. Consider the Enduring Leadership of Jesus

Hebrews 12:3–4

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, *so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.* ⁴ In **your struggle against sin** you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.



A. Physical struggles

- B. Financial struggles
- C. Emotional struggles (things from our past)
- D. Struggles with fear
- E. Struggles with anger
- F. Struggles with sinful habits
- G. Struggles to keep up...

II. Dying to Yourself Until You are Dead

Hebrews 10:32–39

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For *you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.* ³⁷ For, “**Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;**” ³⁸ *but my righteous one shall live by faith,* and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ **But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.**

God has us, do the next right thing.



Hebrews 12:1–2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so *great a cloud of witnesses*, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** ² *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,* who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

There is Glory & Rest After the Suffering!

ⁱ Davis, D. R. (2000). *Joshua: No Falling Words* (p. 87). Scotland: Christian Focus Publications.

ⁱⁱ “To judge from the age of Caleb, if the numbers can be taken at face value, the *long time* (18) of the conquest may be seven years. Caleb was eighty-five at the end of the conquest (see 14:10) and seventy-eight when it began (cf. 14:7 and Dt. 2:14).” **Waltke, B. K.** (1994). *Joshua*. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 249). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.