

Joshua 11: No Enemy Can Stand

Getting started: Describe a time when doing something for God took more time or required more energy than you expected.

Read vv. 1-9**Battle against the Confederation**

1. Which king organized the Northern confederation? (v. 1) Who did he invite to join him in battle against the Israelites? According to your best estimate, how many nations or armies were involved? (vv.1-3)
2. How does the Bible describe the number of the enemy? What did this army have that Israel did not have? Where did these armies converge before battle? (vv. 4-5)
3. How did God encourage Joshua before the battle? (vv. 6-7) In what direction(s) did they chase the enemy? What is the purpose of houghing (or hamstringing) horses and burning chariots? (vv. 8-9) What is the probability of Israel conquering this well-equipped military machine without the help of God?

Read vv. 10-15**Conquering individual Cities**

4. What was the first city Joshua conquered after defeating the confederation? (vv. 10-11) What did Israel do to its king and his city? What did Joshua do to the rest of the cities of the North? (vv. 12-15)

5. How closely did Joshua follow the instructions given to Him by Moses? (vv. 14-15) Why did God not spare a single soul in all the cities that Israel took (see Deuteronomy 11:16; 29:17-18)?

Read vv. 16-23**Assessing the Conquest**

6. Name the regions Joshua and Israel took in battle (v. 16). Give the northern and southern boundaries belonging to Israel. (v. 17) Compare these borders with the modern state of Israel.
7. How many major battles did Israel fight to conquer the land? (chps. 10:1-5; 11:1-9). How many cities made peace with Joshua? (v. 19) Why were there not other peacemakers? (v. 20).
8. Who are the Anakim? (Deuteronomy 9:2) What happened to them during the conquest? Where did the few that survived remain? (v. 22, 1 Samuel 17:4)
9. How long did the conquest take? (v. 18) When the conquest ended, how much of the land belonged to Israel? (v. 23).

Going Deeper

This chapter mentions the Lord “hardening their hearts” (v. 20). What is the reason for hard hearts and why does it matter? (11:20; c.f. Exodus 4:21; 8:15; 9:34; 1 Tim. 4:2)