

Joshua: Chapter 11

- V. 1 – (SC: Now, watch this, it's important.) Then (SC: That is, after what preceded this. So go back up to Joshua 10:42, “Then Joshua captured all...” Now remember, they killed them all, eliminated them. “These kings and their lands at one time. ...because the Lord, the God of Israel fought for them.” Does that mean they sat on the bleachers while God went down in the valley and did all the fighting for them? Not at all. That means they had God's *favor*, God's *blessing* as they did all the hard work. Verse 43 says, “Joshua and all of Israel with him returned to the camp of Gilgal.” Then to the side of my margin, write, “They didn't procrastinate or stop to glory in their victories.”) it came about, when Jabin king of Hazor heard of it, that he sent to (SC: Key words, he sent to... So he sent messengers.) Jobab **#1** king of Madon and to **#2** the king of Shimron and to **#3** the king of Achshaph, (SC: numbers those in your Bibles)
- V. 2 – and to the kings (SC: Plural) who were of the north in the hill country, and in the Arabah—south of Chinneroth and in the lowland and on the heights of Dor on the west—
- V. 3 – to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Jebusite in the hill country, and the Hivite at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.
- V. 4 – And they came out (SC: That is, all these kings), they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.
- SC: So get the picture. All these kings built an alliance. There's power in numbers. They built an alliance against *one* group of people. So there were *many* groups of people against *one* group of people, Israel. **Why did they do it? They did it out of fear.**
 - This is what people do. When they fear, they start going to others to build alliances.
 - *Individuals* do this because they feel more hopeful, more strong that they have one or two or three others with them in their camp against this one person. That's why they do it. They do it out of *fear*. Fear of losing their *position*, their *place*, their *identity*, a *relationship*, a *job*, whatever. People go and try to build alliances with others for self-preservation. It's just a natural human instinct. That's what this King of Hazor did, Jabin, in verse 1. But this is human nature, this is what humans *do*.
 - A human feels a threat from another human or a group of humans, or a denomination or a business, they build threats, they try and build alliances. In business, they do it with M&As. They build alliances out of *fear*, to protect and preserve what they have. Self-preservation. This is why people rarely stand alone, because there's strength in numbers. At least that's how it *feels*.
- V. 5 – So all of these kings having agreed to meet, came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.
- SC: This is *huge*. Y'all need to *remember* all this.
- V. 6 – Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them (SC: Now, go back to Joshua chapter 1, because *this* puts *that* in perspective. Joshua 1:3, “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given to you,” past tense. It's obvious as you go back over to Chapter 11, it's not past tense yet. But God saying it's a done deal. “Just as I spoke to Moses...”, and then he defines the boundaries or the parameters of what's being given to them. In verse 5, “No man will be able to stand before you *all* the days of your life just as I've been with

Moses, I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you.” Verse 6, “Be strong and courageous.” Verse 7, “Be strong and courageous.” Verse 9, “Be strong and courageous.” Verse 18, “Be strong and courageous.” So you need to take verses 3 through 9... We're going to take all of chapter 1, and reread it as a backdrop to what you're seeing, what just happened in Chapter 10 and what's happening in chapter 11, to fully understand how God works in a person's life or in people's life. That's very important.

- So *here* back in Chapter 11, God does a reminder, Verse 6, “Do not be afraid because of them.” In other words, *be strong and courageous*, which they *have* been up to this point. **But fear is such an incredibly subtle emotion** that you can do acts of courage and then still have your tentacles tickled by fear, even *after* your victories.
- So God just *reminded* them, do not be afraid, do not be afraid. That's a *command*. That's not an option.
- That means you have the *ability* to not be afraid. When God says, “do not be afraid,” you have the ability to not fear, to not be afraid, unless you choose to *submit* to the fear. He doesn't say, “call on me and I will give you the ability to not be afraid.” He doesn't say that. He said, “do not be afraid.” It's a declarative statement, a command.), for tomorrow at this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel; you shall hamstring their horses (SC: You should do a word study on that word, “hamstring”.) and burn their chariots with fire.”
- SC: So this is remarkable. Go back and look at Chapter 11, verses 1 through 5, and then look at God's promises in Verse 6. Remember in Verse 4, “As many people as the sand that is on the seashore.”
 - Imagine yourself standing in a tower 500 feet above the beach. You look to your right at the shoreline and the left of the shoreline. And look at all the sand. And see how much sand you're seeing. And with that visual in your mind, read verse 4, “As many people as the sand that is on the seashore.” That's a *lot* of people. Might have been more people than they'd ever seen before all together at once, ever in their lives. As many people as the sand that is on the seashore. So they'd have been tempted to be afraid. And that's probably why God reminds them, “do not be afraid. Tomorrow, I will deliver all of them slain before you.” You're going to kill them off. You're going to eliminate them. Slain, eliminate. Just think of the word slain and eliminate.”
- V. 7 – So Joshua and all the people of war with him came upon them suddenly (SC: Keyword suddenly. So what happened? Surprise. A surprise attack. All these people, verse 4, as many people as the sand is on the sea shore, none of them were expecting it. None of them were ready for it. Even though they knew why they were gathered together, they were still caught off guard, caught by surprise.) by the waters of Merom (SC: which tells you that if the attack came, it couldn't come from the waters because these people didn't have any ships or boats. So that meant that these armies, all these people had their backs up against the wall, if you will. They had nowhere to retreat except the water. And how more could they swim and how long could they last? So the visual is important here. They were backed up with the water behind them. They couldn't go anywhere. They were pinned, if you will. And Israel, suddenly, surprisingly, did a surprise attack), and attacked them.
- V. 8 – And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, so that they defeated them, and pursued them (SC: So they not only defeated but pursued them. That's real important to remember there. There's an order there. Here's the thing about defeat. You defeat when the other person or people know they're losing or have lost. When in *their mind* they're defeated or have lost, you've won. You defeated them. But don't stop there. They pursued them. So while the enemy were in retreat, they didn't stop there. They pursued them. And then what do they do once they *caught* them? They struck them.) ... until no survivor was left to them.
- SC: So they defeated, then they pursued, then they struck; killed them all, eliminated them.
- V. 9 – And Joshua did (SC: In other words, he *acted*. Remember, *do*.) to them as the LORD had told him (SC: In other words, he just simply did what God told him to do. He didn't analyze, question it, put it up for a committee vote. He did and he told his people, who were winning, “Do what God's told us to do.” And they did. Kept it simple. Didn't complicate it.); he hamstrung their horses (SC: What do they mean by that? What does it mean to hamstring someone?), and burned their chariots with fire.

- V. 10 – Then Joshua turned back at that time (SC: Time’s a keyword in the Bible), and captured Hazor (SC: What is Hazor? Verse 1, “it came about, when Jabin king of Hazor...” So Hazor was one of the leading kingdoms if not *the* leading kingdom. That’s what you’ve got to see here.) and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor formerly was the head of all these kingdoms.
- SC: *This* is why when you’re trying to defeat an *army*, you go after their *king*. To defeat a *country*, you go after their king, you go after their general or leader of their army. You kill off the head. You kill off the top person or people, and all the followers are in disarray because they don’t know what to do. They don’t know who to listen to, because the voice they listen to and been following’s been eliminated.
- V. 11 – And they struck every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them; there was no one left who breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire.
- V. 12 – And Joshua captured all the cities of these kings, and all their kings, and he struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed them; just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.
- V. 13 – However, Israel did not burn any cities that stood on their mounds (SC: What does that mean? What separates *those* cities from all the *other* cities from verse 1-12?), except Hazor alone, which Joshua burned.
- SC: Now, what’s the significance of the word, “mound”? All the cities that stood on their mound. Anybody know? All right. Through tens of thousands of years, towns, if you will, cities, towns, gatherings were built on the preceding group that lived in a violent at that location. So you literally will have layers of civilization of a tribe order built on previous generations, previous inhabitants, if you will. So much so that over time it becomes a mound. And this is just true throughout recorded history.
 - And you can see mounds to this day, and people know them and recognize them as a formal settlement. So people would settle in a place instead of new inhabitants a generation later, 100 years later, building their place of abode next to it. They just built on top of it. So when stood on their mounds, meaning they stood on previous settlement because they just built on top of the previous settlements. You say, well, how does that work? Well, think about it. Everything you use to build with eventually degenerates. Sand, if you build with clay in the Middle East, it becomes sand. Timber disintegrates and just blends in with the rest of it. Go look at the rock structures. You see the layers of different levels of civilization in the rock layers. And you'll see carbon because trees have disintegrated to become carbon. And then eventually it becomes rock. And they just build settlement after settlement on previous settlements and it becomes a mound. You all should do you a Google image search on settlement mounds, civilization mounds. And you'll understand the meaning of this.
- SC: Verse 13, “However, Israel did not burn any cities that stood on mounds.” Why? That is so intriguing to me. So what's the difference between these those settlements, those cities, and all these other cities from verses 1 through 12 that they committed to destroy? Was it that these others were newer settlements, newer cities that were not built on previous generations? I don't know. It's an incredibly interesting statement to me. Why is it that God would tell them to go kill everybody in the promised land, but out of nowhere, they let live the cities that sit on mounds? Now, here's the thing. So watch this. With that question in mind, I'll show you the answer, the end of verse 11, “He burned Azor with fire.” Verse 12, “He captured all the cities, all their kingdom....” He destroyed them. However, they did not burn any cities that stood on their mounds. Why? Verse 14 tells you why.
- V. 14 – And all the spoil of these cities and the cattle, the sons of Israel took as their plunder; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They left no one who breathed.
- SC: So they did not destroy the physical and the services of the cities that were built on mounds. Because if they were built on mound, it means they were a more settled settlement, if you will, more settled city because previous generations had built there. It was more stable, if you will. Am I making... Is it making sense? Is that not amazing? Yeah. So he told them, don't burn down the settlement of the cities that are on mounds. Now that you understand what a mound is, you can understand why he's saying that because you're going to live there. It's going to be your plunder, your spoil. So you're going to live off of the wealth of previous generations of that

particular mound or that city. Remember that phrase. And what's the principle here? And think of it in business, too. It's a whole lot easier to go and take over what already exists than to create something that's brand new and fresh and didn't exist before. And this is why you have businesses buying existing businesses. When a person wants to start a business, they have the odds stacked against them unless they go and buy an existing business and remake it. Organic growth versus what? Organic versus acquisition. A whole lot harder to stimulate and create organic growth versus acquisition. That's the lesson here. Not just for business, but for everything. Look how hard it's been for me personally to come from where I came from. You all recognize that? Look how much easier it is for you all to build your life and your future because you're building off of the mound that I created. And if you're smart, you'll go and find other mounds, if you will, other businesses and build off of them. You all ready?

- V. 15 – Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did (there it is again. Do. Act.); he left nothing undone (Key phrase. “Nothing undone.” What does that mean? That means no unfinished business. That's the tool. If you're going to do something, do it right and get it done completely. Nothing undone. Do it right once.) of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.
- V. 16 – Thus Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negev, all that land of Goshen, (SC: think of it) the lowland, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel and its lowland
- SC: “All that land” is mentioned twice.
- V. 17 – (Verse 17, describing more of what was taken.) And he captured all their kings and struck them down and put them to death.
- V. 18 – Joshua waged war (SC: That's an act.) a long time with all these kings.
- SC: And there's a key phrase there. It wasn't one battle. Key word, time. Remember, you're trying to see the word time in the Bible. St. Joshua waged war a long time with all these Kings.
- V. 19 – There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon; they took them all in battle.
- SC: What does this tell you? There's symbolism here for your life. Life is a battle. You have enemies. **Your job is to eliminate the enemies. Your job is to know the enemy's tactics.**
 - What are the enemy's tactics? Building alliances.
 - What are your tactics?
 - Number one, you've got God.
 - Number two, you have strategy and plan.
 - Number three, you surprise them.
 - Number four, you're in it for the long haul. You're going to win by attrition and you're going to win brutally. You kill them off, you eliminate them. Word spreads about your way of warfare and that infuses fear within your enemies and potential enemies. That right there gives you a major advantage. When they fear you, you're at an advantage. Yeah, let me know when you're ready. What did you say their plan was? Surprise attack? Alliance. Alliance. All the enemies? I thought you know about Israel. Now, remember, building alliances is a response to fear. And there's a business. Why do people create partnerships? Because they fear being able to be successful on their own. And you're taught that in business, you more have to succeed with partners as partnerships. But the sad thing is nobody teaches you this. Most partnerships fail, very few succeed. That's just because you're in a human nature. That's why most marriages fail. That's why most denominations become denominations and split up in Green War denominations. People don't get along. Every now and then, you will find a couple or a partnership that does get along, but it's rare. It's very rare but it's a blessing when it happens.
- V. 20 – For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts (SC: See the word “hardened”? Yeah. Cross it out. Over to the left margin, “make strong” is literally the Hebrew definition of the word there. Circle, make strong over in your left margin. If you don't have it, write it in there. What does that mean? Confluence, boldness. So just write

boldness and confidence. Here's the key to that. So, 30 years ago, I was teaching that confidence is a result of accomplishment and achievement. I've told you all that. You need confidence? You want confidence? The only way you're going to get it is to step out of your comfort zone and to achieve and accomplish. All right?), to meet Israel in battle (SC: not from battle) in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- SC: So he destroyed them as well as he in twice. No mercy, no compassion.
- V. 21 – Then Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab and from all the hill country of Judah and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities.
- V. 22 – There were no Anakim left in the land of the sons of Israel; only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod some remained.
- V. 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 divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.
- SC: And we said this in an earlier chapter that we were studying. This is how countries and kingdoms have always operated up until the United States of America. And even we did it when Europeans came all from Europe to this continent, North America.
 - It's really interesting. Countries and Kingdoms have always been created by conquering other countries and Kingdoms or cities or towns that were there already. Always building on what already existed, that's the key. Always building on what already existing through concrete.