

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JOSHUA 9-12

The new pastor visited the Children's Ministry to measure its effectiveness. He asked the Sunday School class, "Who tore down the walls of Jericho?"

Little Johnny raised his hand, "Pastor, I promise you. I didn't do it."

The pastor was taken back by his answer. He repeated his question, "Come on now, who tore down the walls of Jericho?" The Sunday School teacher jumped in, "Pastor, little Johnny is a good boy. If he says he didn't do it I believe him."

The upset pastor went to the head of the Children's Ministry and explained what happened. The director said, "We've had problems with Johnny before, but since we talked he's been fine. If he says he didn't do it, he probably didn't do it."

Finally, the pastor explained the situation to the elders. The leader commented, "Pastor, Johnny's family has been a part of our church for years, I make a motion, we take the money out of the general funds and just pay to repair the wall."

Last week we discovered *who tore down the walls of Jericho*... Jesus fought the battle of Jericho. Jesus, commander of the Lord's army planned the battle.

In fact, there were two key battles in the Hebrew's conquest of Canaan...

The first was the Battle of Jericho. It was the Israelite's initial victory. It sent a message to the other nations, and created momentum among God's people.

The second key battle was the Battle of Beth Horon – that we’ll study tonight. At Beth Horon God broke the southern resistance, and destroyed five nations that had allied themselves to fight against Joshua and the Hebrews.

It’s interesting that both key victories were aided by supernatural intervention.

The miraculous way the battles were won convinced the Canaanites they were doomed. It was obvious they were fighting no ordinary army. These victories were proof that they were fighting against the one, true God – Jehovah of Israel.

And if you think the miracle at Jericho was a big deal... hold on to your hat! In the Battle of Beth Horon, *God flexes His muscle in an extraordinary way...*

We begin in chapter 9, “**And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon - the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite - heard about it, that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.**” These were hostile city-states that usually warred against each other. Now Israel poses such a threat the cities rally together.

“**But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai...**” Understand the next town west of Ai was Gibeon. They knew they were in the line of fire. They were the next city to topple under the Israeli stampede.

It was too late for the Gibeon to join forces with their

neighbors. Their survival depended on a different approach... They decided if you can't beat'em - join'em.

“They worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." The Gibeonites understood that God had instructed the Hebrews to take no prisoners from among the Canaanites.

The Hebrews were under orders to seek and destroy. A good neighbor strategy wouldn't work. Therefore, they pretended to be a delegation from a far country.

“Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites (not knowing they were Hivites), "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?" So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan - to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth." Notice, they don't mention the latest conquests of Jericho and Ai. It was part of the ruse.

They want the Hebrews to think they're ignorant of the local

news.

“Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us." '

"This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but **they did not ask counsel of the LORD.** *How often have we been guilty of the same mistake?*

How many problems can we trace back to not seeking counsel from the Lord?

We're a little too confident – we lean too much on our own understanding - it seems good to us... Beware! Neglect to seek the Lord, and you'll get burned.

Isaiah 28:16 is a good reminder, **“Whoever believes will not act hastily.”**

Guys, never make a decision without first consulting God's wisdom.

Verse 15 **“So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.**

And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were

their neighbors who dwelt near them. Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day.

Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.

But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel.”

A vow is a vow, and the leaders were men of their word. Even if they were deceived into making the vow they still were committed to honor their word. It reminds me of Ecclesiastes 5:5, “Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”

Perhaps some of you work for a Gibeonite? He promised you one thing when he hired you – but it was a deception. Maybe you bought a car from a Gibeonite? You now know you bought a lemon. The guy was guilty of false advertisement. Maybe you married a Gibeonite? She pretended to be something she was not.

How do you respond? Hey, in certain situations there may be some recourse you can take, but the one certainty is that God expects you to keep your word.

No matter the inconvenience it creates... you should still be a person of integrity. If you made a promise, then you should uphold your end of the deal.

Verse 18 “And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. This we will do to them: We will let them

live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them." And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them."

They would cut wood for the sacrifices, and carry water for priestly washings. The Gibeonites become the lumberjacks and water boys of the Tabernacle.

"Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us? Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves - woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day." Despite the deceptive methods by which they gained their post the Gibeonites gratefully embraced their duties.

Later Joshua appoints Gibeon, *of all places* - as a Levitical city. The priests and Levites will make their home among the

woodcutters and the water boys.

Perhaps the psalmist was thinking about the Gibeonites when he wrote Psalm 84:10, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

It’s interesting that God also honored this covenant with the Gibeonites.

2 Samuel 21:1 tells us, “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, “It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.”

God would later bring judgment on those who mistreated the Gibeonites.

Joshua’s victories had not gone unnoticed by the surrounding Canaanite kings. When Joshua lynched the king of Ai, I’m sure that got their attention...

This is why Adoni-Zedek, the king of Jerusalem, along with four other kings formed a coalition to attack the Hebrews. They intend to stop Israel’s conquest.

This southern coalition meets Israel at the battle of Beth Horon, and if you think Jericho was an example of supernatural intervention – *you ain’t seen nothing yet!*

Chapter 10 begins with Adoni-Zedek’s analysis, “Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it - as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king - and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace

with Israel and were among them, that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.

Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel." Rather than sit back and let Joshua take them one at a time. Adoni-Zedek wants to join forces and take the battle to Joshua.

Verse 5 "Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it." Taking back Gibeon would provide the southern kings a strategic military advantage against Joshua.

"And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.” Here is where a little geography lesson will be helpful...

From Gilgal to Ai is just 15 miles, but it's all uphill. Gilgal is 900 feet below sea level. Ai is in the mountains, 2600 feet above sea level. Keep going westward toward Gibeon, and you slope back down the west side of the mountain.

The valley below Gibeon is called the Valley of Beth Horon.

There is only one way out of this valley, and that's toward the south. The Valley of Beth Horon runs perpendicular with the Valley of Aijalon.

Joshua hears that the southern coalition is camped in the Valley of Beth Horon.

He pushes his troops through the night. The Israeli army marches hard - a ten hour - 15 mile - 3300 feet climb. But when the sun comes up Joshua is in position to launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and his Amorite buddies.

When the sun rises the fight commences...

Verse 10 “So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died.

There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.” God even intervenes in the battle with a supernatural air strike. God uses the

heavenly artillery. He bombs the Amorites with “large hailstones”.

The rout is on...

“Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

Verse 13 “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies.” Understand what’s happening... The ancient Hebrews did not have daylight savings time, and the sun is starting to set.

The rout is on, and nobody wants to come back the next day to finish the battle. Besides, Joshua is concerned that the Amorites will get away under the cover of darkness. To complete the mop up he needs a few more hours of daylight.

Thus, Joshua prays a pray so bold and daring – *I doubt any of us would even dream to pray*. He prays in verse 12, “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” And we’re told in verse 13, “So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.”

Let this miracle prove once and for all there is no limit to the extent God will go to help His people defeat their enemies. God wants you to live in victory over fear - over sin - over temptation – over worry. If you ask the Lord - if you trust Him – He’ll do whatever it takes to give you the opportunity, and the tools you need for victory.

And don't get thrown here by the language. The writer is simply using the language of observation. He's reporting on a phenomenon as it appeared.

We do this when we use the terms "*sunrise*" or "*sunset*". We don't mean the actually sun rises and sun sets. The earth's rotation makes it appear that way.

Evidently, something happened that caused the earth's rotation to slow and stop. Obviously, this presupposes a global event of cataclysmic proportions.

And Joshua even suspects future readers might have a difficult time believing such a miracle occurred – thus, he appeals to additional, extra-biblical sources.

“Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.” God heeded Joshua's prayer to help him win the battle. **“Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.”**

That this miracle happened should not be questioned - the only question is how it happened... Not only did the book of Jasher talk about this event, in most every culture on the planet there are historical references to a "*long day*" or "*long night*".

The Chinese speak of a "*long day*". The Aztecs of Mexico, and the Choctaw Indians, and the Peruvian Indians - all report a "*long night*". It's a fact of history.

Now how it happened is more of a mystery...

Certainly, God could've reached out with His hand, and slowed the earth's rotation. Genesis 1:1 says God created the heavens and the earth, and if He created the earth He can do anything with it that He chooses.

There are though respected scientists who've posed astronomical explanations for Joshua's long day. A colleague of Albert Einstein, Immanuel Velikovsky, wrote a book called "*Worlds in Collision*". In his book Velikovsky suggests a comet passed through the earth's atmosphere in the middle of Joshua's battle.

The comet tilted the earth's axis accounting for the long day. Its tail pummeled the earth with a shower of asteroids or hailstones. *It was a miracle of timing* - God manipulated the comet in answer to Joshua's prayer.

Another book by NASA scientist, Donald Wesley Patten, called "*Catastrophism and the Old Testament*" suggests the earth was victim of a close encounter with the planet Mars. Patten has constructed computer models that show around the time of Joshua, Mars passed by the earth at a distance of 28,000 miles.

The closest the moon ever gets to Earth is 221,463 miles. So 28,000 miles is just spitting distance... A close fly-by would cause the magnetic and gravitational fields of both planets to drag on each other. Earth's rotation might grind to a halt. All kinds of global disasters would result – *like hailstones near Beth Horon*.

Patten's theory may also explain why the ancients worshipped planets they could barely see. The city of Rome was dedicated to Mars - the god of war.

These explanations also shine an interesting light on the book of Revelation.

If a planetary fly-by - or the sweep of a comet through the earth's atmosphere occurred in the past, it could also occur in the future - and possibly explain some of cataclysmic events that will occur in the last days. Revelation describes massive earthquakes - the sky tearing - meteors falling from the sky - the surface of the earth scorched - mountains moving out of place - islands disappearing - etc...

There's an interesting passage in Isaiah that compares God's judgment in the last days with the miraculous events that occurred in Beth Horon. Isaiah calls it the Valley of Gibeon. Isaiah 28:21-22 reads, "For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon - that He may do His work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act. Now therefore, do not be mockers, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, a destruction determined even upon the whole earth."

Which brings up another provocative observation... in many ways the book of Joshua is an amazing model of the book of Revelation. Remember the theme of both books... a "Jesus" or "Joshua" wages war against a collection of pagan kings in order to take possession of a land that belongs to God and His people.

In Joshua the land is Canaan. In Revelation the land is the entire planet Earth.

And look at the parallels...

Two spies enter Jericho - two witnesses are sent by God to the earth.

7 trumpets shake the walls of Jericho - 7 trumpet judgments shake the earth.

Both campaigns last 7 years – the Great Tribulation and Canaan’s conquest.

Both opposition forces are led by a king from Jerusalem. “Adoni-Zedek” means “Lord of righteousness”. He typifies the Antichrist, *the imposter of righteousness*.

In both books God uses cataclysmic judgments to humble the enemy...

Hailstones fall in Beth Horon – while 100 pound hailstones fall on the blasphemers in Revelation 16:21. God stones the world for its blasphemy.

In Revelation 6:15 the kings of the earth hide themselves in the rocks and caves, in Joshua 10:16 the five kings that come against Joshua hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah... and the list of parallels goes on and on. It’s amazing!

You’ll also notice what Joshua does to the Amorite kings in 10:24. He tells the captains of Israel to “put your feet on the necks of these kings”. This is what Jesus will one day do to His enemies. *His enemies will be His footstool*.

Verse 16 “But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. And it was told Joshua,

saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand."

Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

Verse 22 "Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave." And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening.

So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the

trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Verse 28 “On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them--all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.”

Once the Amorite coalition falls the rest of the southern kingdoms are easy pick'n. The rest of chapter 10 sums up their conquest... Makkedah falls, then Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, and Debir. Joshua does to the city-states of southern Canaan, what Sherman did to the South during the Civil War.

Joshua leaves a trail of blood. The South is cleared for Israelite occupation.

Verse 40 sums up the conquest. “So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Southern Canaan has fallen, now Joshua sets his sites northward.

Chapter 11, “And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, “ The word “Chinneroth” means “*harp-shaped*.” It refers to the Sea of Galilee. And for those who’ve stood on top of the Arbel and looked out over the lake you’ll confirm that’s exactly what the Sea of Galilee resembles – a harp.

“In the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.”

So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.” The waters of Merom are a few miles east of Hazor. The armies of this northern coalition were all under the command of Jabin, king of Hazor.

And this is a formidable army... The Jewish historian, Josephus, says Jabin gathered 300,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, and 10,000 chariots. Each chariot crew consisted of 3 soldiers – a driver, a bowman, and a javelin junker. Jabin’s army of was the equivalent of a modern war machine. *Joshua was just a little intimidated...*

Verse 6 “But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all

of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

The next day Joshua led a surprise attack against this northern army.

"So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire."

Deuteronomy 17 warned the future king of Israel not to store up horses.

In ancient times a cavalry was state-of-the-art warfare. Horses translated into military might. But the king of Israel was supposed to trust in God, not his cavalry. I'm sure the hamstringing of the horses and the burning of the chariots helped reinforce this idea in the minds of the Hebrews, and eliminated temptation.

Verse 10 "Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.

And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire."

Remember God used Israel to judge these people for their perverse culture.

“So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned.

And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing. 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.”

Here was the real secret to Joshua’s success, “He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded...” He was obedient in every detail. Joshua left nothing undone God asked him to do. This is the difference between victory and defeat in the spiritual battle we fight... *Is there anything that you’ve left undone?*

It is a credit to Joshua that modern Israeli generals have studied his battle tactics and used them to defeat the Syrians and Jordanians in modern conflicts.

Joshua was the originator of the preemptive strike. Rarely did he wait on his enemy to attack. He struck first... at Ai – Beth Horon – Hazor. Even if it meant marching an army through the night Joshua used the element of surprise.

He also knew the lay of the land, and used it for his advantage. In almost every battle, Joshua was outnumbered, but he relied on speed, stealth, and surprise.

Today, modern Israelis hail Joshua as the ultimate military commander, but who really fought the battles? It was the Commander of the Lord's army! Our Lord Jesus led the Hebrews to victory – just as he also leads us to victory.

Verse 16 “Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain - the mountains of Israel and its lowlands, from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon.” From south to north...

“He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them.

Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle.

For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

“And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: The Anakim were the giants. These people may've mutant humanoids. The offspring of dark, occultic, sexual practices. Joshua targeted these giants for

extermination.

He cut them off “from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.” Later we’ll meet one surviving family of the Anakim who lived in Gath – the leader of which was named *Goliath*.

Verse 23 “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.”

Chapter 12 sum up Israel’s victories... 2 kings were defeated by Moses east of the Jordan... 31 kings in all were conquered by Joshua west of the Jordan River.

I love Redpath’s comment on this chapter, “Sometimes in the course of human experience it is good to sit down and reflect on what has been conquered by the grace of God.” I’m sure for Joshua this chapter stirred up gratitude and praise.

“These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain:...”

Verse 2-6 list the Amorite, Sihon, and Og of Bashan – the 2 kings conquered by Moses east of the Jordan. It also pinpoints the boundaries of their territory.

Verses 7-24 list the 31 kings conquered by Joshua – west of

the Jordan.

Now that the land has been conquered it has to be allocated to the twelve tribes - then settled by the people. That's what we'll look at next time...