

Making Promises

Part 4: The Conquest

Review

- God is establishing his kingdom on earth with the nation of Israel as they take possession of the land of promise.
- As part of the acquisition of the promised land, the children of Israel must purge the evil person from among them. This begins with the total dedication of the city of Jericho (except for Rahab and her family), and the destruction of the people of Ai.
- The Hebrews suffered defeat in Ai in the first battle as a result of Achan taking some of the spoils from Jericho. He and his family were subsequently devoted to destruction, and the Hebrews went on to destroy the city of Ai.

Gibeon

- After the fall of Ai, the formerly quivering Canaanite kings (**Josh. 5:1**), whose people themselves had come from outside the Land, now **band together** to fight against Israel (**Josh. 9:1–2; 10:1; 7:9**).
- To spare their lives, the **Gibeonites** disguise themselves as coming from a distant, non-Canaanite city and offer themselves as slaves to Israel. Joshua, once again, fails to consult the Lord (**Josh. 9:14; Num. 27:21**) and is thus beguiled.
 - Three times in successive verses (**Josh. 9:18-20**) the point is made that Israel must not break an oath, even though made under false colors, and so misuse **God's name** (**Exod. 20:7; Lev. 19:12; 1 Sam. 14:24; 2 Sam. 21:1–14; Matt. 5:37**).
 - Once again, Moses' law to eliminate all the Canaanites is qualified with regard to Canaanites who do not threaten the integrity of the Lord's **covenant with Israel**.
 - Israel and Gibeon fulfill the divine will in the wrong way and are punished. Israel fails to **consult** the Lord and therefore loses possession of four Gibeonite cities (**Josh. 9:16–17**). The Gibeonites are put under a curse to become Israel's **slaves**. This curse becomes the first fulfillment of Noah's curse that Canaan would be a slave of Shem (**Gen. 9:26**).

Southern and Northern Victories

- Once it was apparent that Joshua had **severed** northern Canaan from the south

and had effectively installed Israel in the central hill country, the Canaanites and other populations throughout the length and breadth of the land decided to forgo their petty differences and forge a common front against Israel.

- When the southern city-states hear of what the Gibeonites had done, Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon decide to **band together**. The Gibeonites petition Joshua to help them (**Josh. 10:6**).
 - ◉ In the best traditions of holy war, the Lord, probably after being consulted, **assures** Joshua and his army of victory (**Josh. 10:8**).
 - ◉ At Beth-Horon Pass, Joshua petitions God to stop the movement of the **sun and moon (Josh. 10:12–15)** until Israel avenges themselves (i.e., defensively vindicating their sovereignty) on their enemy. Amazingly, the Lord submits his heavenly attendants to a man's command on earth's stage.
- The northern campaign, like the southern one, also consists of two incidents: the rout of the Canaanites at the **Waters of Merom (Josh. 11:1–9)** and the subsequent capture of their cities (**Josh. 11:10–15**).
 - ◉ In an addendum to the main account of the conquest, a special campaign of Joshua to deal with the problem of the **Anakim** was undertaken (**Josh. 11:21–23; 14:15; 15:13; Num. 13:33**).

Division of the Land

- For the first time, the reader learns that the Israelites did not **drive out** the people from various areas (**Josh. 13:13; 15:63; 16:10; 17:12**). This distressing report suggests that trouble is brewing on the horizon.
- The first tribes to receive their inheritance are those that settled east of the Jordan River. Moses distributed the land to **Reuben, Gad**, and the half-tribe of **Manasseh (Num. 32:33–42; Dt. 3:8–17)**.
 - ◉ They were given the land east of the Jordan upon their request because they saw it would be suitable for their **herds (Num. 32:1-2, 4-5)**. Moses granted the request on the condition that they fought with Israel first before settling (**Num. 32:6, 17-18, 20-23**).
- The tribe of **Levi** receives no inheritance of the land since the Lord is their inheritance, however, they were given 48 cities and 6 cities of refuge as a "land grant" (**Josh. 13:14, 33; 21:1-45**).
- The tribe of Joseph also receives a double portion through his two sons **Ephraim** and **Manasseh (Gen. 48:5-6)**.
 - ◉ **Manasseh** receives two different portions, one to the east of the Jordan and one to the west.

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Joshua 5:1	As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.
Joshua 9:1–2	1 As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, 2 they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.
Joshua 10:1	As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,
Joshua 7:9	For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"
Joshua 9:14	So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord.
Numbers 27:21	And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation."
Joshua 9:18–20	18 But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders. 19 But all the leaders said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. 20 This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them."
Exodus 20:7	"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
Leviticus 19:12	You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.
1 Samuel 14:24	And the men of Israel had been hard pressed that day, so Saul had laid an oath on the people, saying, "Cursed be the man who eats food until it is evening and I am avenged on my enemies." So none of the people had tasted food.
2 Samuel 12:1–14	1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the Lord. And the Lord said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." 2 So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah. 3 And David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the heritage of the Lord?" 4 The Gibeonites said to him, "It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." And he said, "What do you say that I shall do for you?" 5 They said to the king, "The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel, 6 let seven of his sons be given to us, so that we may hang them before the Lord at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the Lord." And the king said, "I will give them." 7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the Lord that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. 8 The king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; 9 and he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the Lord, and the seven of them perished together. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest. 10 Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell upon them from the heavens. And she did not allow the birds of the air to come upon them by day, or the beasts of the field by night. 11 When David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, 12 David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa. 13 And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged. 14 And they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Kish his father. And they did all that the king commanded. And after that God responded to the plea for the land.
Matthew 5:37	Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.
Joshua 9:16–17	16 At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. 17 And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.
Genesis 9:26	He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant.

Joshua 10:6	And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us."
Joshua 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."
Joshua 10:12-15	12 At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. 14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel. 15 So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.
Joshua 11:1-9	1 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 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. 5 And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. 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." 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 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. 9 And Joshua did to them just as the Lord said to him: he hamstringing their horses and burned their chariots with fire.
Josh. 11:10-15	10 And Josh. turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. 11 And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire. 12 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. 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.
Joshua 11:21-23	21 And 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 devoted them to destruction with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain. 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.
Joshua 14:15	Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.
Joshua 15:13	According to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).
Numbers 13:33	And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."
Joshua 13:13	Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.
Joshua 15:63	But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.
Joshua 16:10	However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor.
Joshua 17:12	Yet the people of Manasseh could not take possession of those cities, but the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land.
Numbers 32:1-2	1 Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. 2 So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation,
Numbers 32:4-5	4 the land that the Lord struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." 5 And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."
Numbers 32:6	But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here?"
Numbers 32:17-18	17 but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. 18 We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance.

<p>Numbers 32:20–23</p>	<p>20 So Moses said to them, “If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the Lord for the war, 21 and every armed man of you will pass over the Jordan before the Lord, until he has driven out his enemies from before him 22 and the land is subdued before the Lord; then after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the Lord and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the Lord. 23 But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.</p>
<p>Joshua 13:14</p>	<p>To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.</p>
<p>Joshua 13:33</p>	<p>But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.</p>
<p>Genesis 48:5–6</p>	<p>5 And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. 6 And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.</p>