

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”  
April 23, 2016**

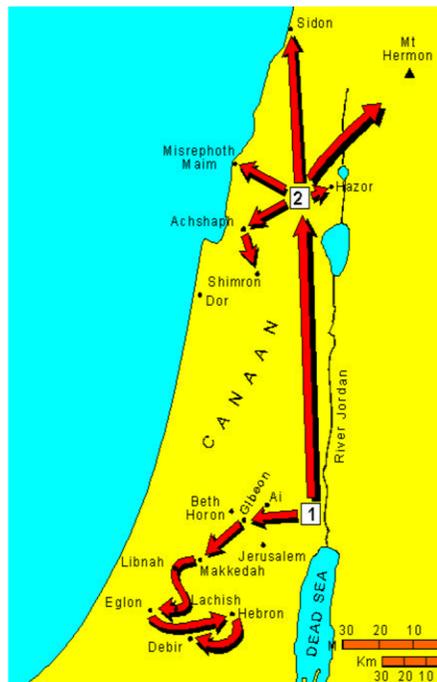
- ✓ **Joshua 10:16-11:23.** Conquest of the southland and northland.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 11:1-6.** Paul’s concern for the Corinthians’ faithfulness.
- ✓ **Psalms 51:1-19.** Confession of sin.

**COMMENTARY:**

**Joshua 10:16-11:23.** Taking every advantage of the extended day, Joshua continued in pursuit of the enemies, namely the five Amorite kings (10:16-27). It was the killing of the five kings with its graphic depiction of crushing victory that enables Joshua to proceed in the conquest of the southern area (10:28-43).

Joshua’s defeat of the southland alarmed the northern Canaanite kings as depicted in chapter 11. Although these northern kings did not care for each other, the threat of annihilation by Joshua motivated them into an

alliance—‘the enemy of my enemy is my friend.’ As you can see, this northern army is impressive with soldiers as “numerous as the sand on the seashore,” but in addition they had “horses and chariots” in great numbers. Josephus, a famous historian of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, speculated that this northern confederacy included 300,000 infantry soldiers, 10,000 cavalry troops, and 20,000 chariots. How in the world could Joshua hope to win such a battle? God instructs Joshua to hamstring the horses and burn the chariots. This victory in the north brought the formal end of the Conquest. Why hamstringing the horses? God did not want Israel to trust in these pagan means of conquest as David notes, Psalm 20:7 “Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”



## Joshua's Campaigns

- 1 **In the south** (Joshua 10). Joshua's southern campaign was triggered by the treaty he made with the city of Gibeon. Five local kings went to war against Gibeon for its defection to the Israelites. Joshua conquered all their cities (except Jerusalem) using speedy marches and surprise attacks.
- 2 **In the north** (Joshua 11). The collapse of the south to Joshua spurred the powerful King Jabin of Hazor to assemble a large army for war. Again Joshua's shock tactics demolished the enemy. But these quick victories had to be followed up by a slower guerilla war, rooting out pockets of resistance (Joshua 11:18).

These two campaigns were only the beginning of the conquest and settlement of Canaan. Many cities and territories were still outside Israelite control (Judges 1). But Joshua's campaigns were the foundation for building the nation in Canaan.

**2 Corinthians 11:1-6.** In this section we see Paul's concern for the faithfulness of the Corinthians to the Lord and to God's Truth. As far as the Lord, note how Paul speaks of his godly jealousy for them as has betrothed them to one husband and how he wanted to present them as a chaste virgin to Christ (2). The metaphor of engagement and marriage assumes that God's ideal for marriage is no prior sexual relations. Due to the shift in modern thinking in all areas: from above (responsible before God), from below (man as a special species), and from within (viewpoints and experiences of right, wrong, relativity, absolutes, etc.) sex and marriage have undergone a radical change. Instead of marriage and family viewed as from God for the benefit of children and society, it has been changed into a being a subjective and relative vehicle for feelings, personal preferences, and personal utility. This new modernistic framework no longer sees traditional marriage as a blessing. Rather, it sees traditional marriage as an oppressive institution which perpetuates the exploitation of women by men and the mental abuse of parents over children in inculcating their religious ideas into the children. The hostility against the family will only become more radical (with children's rights movements, laws granting incest and polyamory) and worsen apart from reorientation to realism with *real* views from above, from below, and from within. Unless and until this trend reverses, the hostility will continue against traditional family and the next step is for the government to take over responsibility for what we teach our children—so much for a neutral secular government! As far as faithfulness to truth as such, note that false teachers have no problems using the right words: Jesus, spirit, gospel (4).

**Psalms 51:1-19.** Note the attitude of David in this repentance psalm. Rather than defining confession by word studies, actually look at the attitude in confession in this psalm and other passages where great men came before God in confession of personal sins. Note his entreaty to God for grace to be restored to spiritual strength with a new heart for the Lord. Man does not have the power to love and worship God, God's very grace is needed to fulfill any desire to have a heart for the Lord. The Holy Spirit must supernaturally raise up our hearts and minds.

**Romans 11:36** For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don