

JOSHUA 11 STUDY NOTES (5/22/22)

Joshua's Big Theme: The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

Today's Context: The Israelites have one more massive battle against an army of Kings, finishing their major battles in the land of Canaan (for now). The Israelites can now prepare themselves and their new homes for rest.

Additional Study Notes:

- Like with Pharaoh in the book of Exodus, today's passage mentions that the hearts of the kings of Canaan were hardened to "wage war against Israel" (v.20). It's important to remember that when we see this in Scripture, it does not mean that holy and loving people are made evil by God's blunt force. Instead, in almost every example, there is evidence of the person hardening their heart against God *first*, before God hardens their hearts (see Pharaoh in Exodus). Most likely, God is leading these people deeper into the *natural inclinations*, similar to what we see described in Romans 1. Due to their disobedience, God is already planning to punish them, however, He hardens their hearts further to use their wickedness in His broader plans and purposes. With Pharaoh, He amplified Pharaoh's pride to better showcase His awesome power to the watching world. Here, God uses the hardened hearts of the Israelities to show His power and faithfulness to His own children in battle.
- The Anakites in verse 22 are significant for two reasons. First, they are the people that initially scared the Israelities away from attacking Canaan in Numbers 13:33. Here, however, they are the ones made afraid of YHWH. But second, it says that some Anakites reside in Gath. This may not seem like a big deal, but in the future, Goliath the giant will come from Gath to face off against the Israelities (1 Sam 17)

For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 10:16-43? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What is your plan for staying consistent in your Bible reading going into the summer? How can you find accountability?

GROWING Together

- (6) **If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) Put yourself in the shoes of the Israelites, leaving behind warfare for peace, home, and cultivation of a new land. How would this have felt? How are we too called to a life of rest and cultivation? How do you believe God has called you to use your specific gifts and resources within His Kingdom?
- (8) Are we allowed to feel "rest" as Christians today? What often prevents this? How do we find rest in the face of threats and uncertainty?
- (9) What have been some of your take-aways from our time in Joshua?
- (10) How does Christ institute rest for us *today* and how does He provide us with perfect rest in the future?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 24:14-18. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) There was a lot of fighting in this passage, what was the end result? How did you see God's faithfulness throughout the Israelites journey to the land that God promised them? How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
- (16) The Israelites have a home for the first time in hundreds of years, how do you think they felt? How do you feel about your home? How do you see God in your home? How can you share this peace and comfort with others so they can feel God in their homes?