

CONQUEST OF CANAAN

Introduction: Joshua's character is revealed by this humiliating experience of being fooled by the Gibeonites and by his glorious military successes. Joshua was a man of principle, even when that principle hurt him, but he also was a man of prowess. He had two opportunities to renounce his oath with the Gibeonites. First, he could have renounced his oath right after the discovery of the Gibeonites' deception. Second, he could have ignored his responsibility to help the Gibeonites when he received word of the Canaanites' attack on them. Yet he regarded the honor of the LORD's name more important than his own interests, and embarked on an exhausting march to help Gibeon to keep the covenant he had made with them. As it turned out, it was the beginning of a campaign that secured the southern half of Canaan for Israel (Josh 10).

Then Joshua faced the most formidable foe of the war - the united armies of the north with their chariots (Josh 11). The chariot was the ancient counterpart of the modern-day tank. But Joshua, undaunted by the opposition and with unwavering faith in the LORD, marched forth to defeat his well equipped enemies by a sudden and unexpected attack. This chapter ends the record of Israel's conquest of Canaan. With many of the major cities of Canaan conquered and ravaged, the individual tribes could begin to possess the land allotted to them and root out the rest of their enemies.

Lesson Aim: Trust in the LORD's promises and power so you can conquer all your spiritual enemies.

Memory Verse: "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**I. The Covenant with Gibeon — 9:1-27**

1. What preparations did the Gibeonites make to deceive Israel? 9:4-5
2. What did the Israelite leaders fail to do before they made a treaty with the Gibeonites? 9:14
3. What did Joshua and the leaders do to Gibeon for deceiving them? 9:19-20

II. The Campaign in Southern Canaan — 10:1-43

4. Why did the Amorite kings decide to attack Gibeon? 10:4-5
5. What was Joshua's response to Gibeon's call for help? 10:7-9
6. Name two things that the LORD did to aid the Israelites in their battle against the Canaanites. 10:11-14
7. Name the cities that the Israelites captured in southern Canaan? 10:28-38

III. The Conquest of Northern Canaan — 11:1-23

8. What awesome weapons did the enemy have in northern Canaan? 11:4
9. What promise did the LORD give to Joshua before his troops attacked the northern army? 11:6
10. What did Joshua do to Hazor that was different than the other cities? 11:13
11. Why did the Canaanites resist instead of surrender to the Israelites? 11:19-20