



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
January/February, 2020

The Greater Joshua

In the closing verses of **Joshua 11**, we find a summary not just of the northern campaign, but also of the conquest of Canaan. This war wrap up stresses Joshua's role as the deliverer. It is evident that Joshua was God's instrument in leading the people to victory and possession of the Promised Land.

As Israel's leader, Joshua stands as a type of Jesus Christ. Joshua's name means "the Lord saves." He is a picture prophecy of who Jesus is and what Jesus did to accomplish our salvation. Just as Joshua led Israel to seize and occupy the land of promise, Jesus leads His people into the fullness of spiritual blessing.

How did Joshua lead Israel into blessing? Moreover, how does this help us to understand how Jesus leads us into the fullness of God's blessing? I would ask you to consider three actions of Joshua that point us to Jesus.

Joshua made war with the enemy.

In Joshua **11:16-20**, we have a summary of all that has happened in the conflicts in Canaan. The emphasis in these

verses is that God used Joshua to make war against the enemy. He was the key to victory in Canaan.

It's interesting that the Bible says this in **11:19**, "There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle." The text is clear is that Israel fought against the Canaanites. However, this text puts the honor for triumph at the feet of Joshua:

"So Joshua took all that land" (11:16);

"and all the kings he took (11:17);

"Joshua made war" (11:18);

"Joshua . . . cut off the Anakim" (11:21);

"Joshua destroyed them utterly" (11:21);

"So Joshua took the whole land" (11:23);

"Joshua gave it for an inheritance" (11:23).

Why does the text repeatedly emphasize Joshua's role in victory? It demonstrates the way God brings about victory. God accomplishes His plans through His chosen leader. God brought Israel into the blessings of the Promised Land through the work and leadership of Jesus.

We can see in this a striking picture of what Jesus Christ has done for us. God chose and ordained the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord. Jesus Christ is committed to doing everything necessary for our salvation. He left nothing undone. He did all that had to be done to redeem us from our sin.

Jesus Christ made war with the enemies of our soul. He suffered on the Cross. He died. He was buried. He rose again. By the Cross and the empty tomb, Jesus destroyed the power of Satan over us. He paid the penalty for our sin. He rose from the dead to give us resurrection power against the flesh and the world.

He now intercedes at the right hand of God. He sees to it that all that God has purposed for us becomes a reality in our lives. He continues to lead us in the will of God. He grants us a continual supply of power and grace. Every blessing of God is ours through Jesus Christ. He is our greater Joshua who leads us into all the blessings of God by His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Joshua overcame fear.

Joshua 11:21 says, "And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities." We need to notice that phrase "and at that time."

When Joshua defeated all the other nations, he cut the Anakim off. It was a complete destruction. None of them were left in the territory of Israel.

It's interesting that the Bible tells us that Joshua had already conquered these areas (**Joshua 11:16**). Why then do we have another reference to taking these areas? It's because of the cutting off of the Anakim.

The Anakim were giants (**Deuteronomy 2:10, 21; 9:2**). They struck fear into the hearts of the people of Israel. The Anakim kept them from possessing the Promised Land the first time they approached it (**Numbers 13:30-33**). Israel thought they were an undefeatable foe, "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their own sight (**Numbers 13:33**).

Yet, now, we have the account of Joshua defeating and destroying them. The Anakim that the people feared and hindered them from entering into blessing, Joshua now cuts them off. What was an object of fear for the people, Joshua dealt with and removed.

This again shows us a picture of the greater Joshua, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our mighty Warrior. He can help us face and overcome fear. Whatever we fear, Jesus will fight for us and face it with us. Our fears pose no threat or obstacle to our greater Joshua, Jesus Christ.

What are you afraid of? It's no threat to Jesus. It's no obstacle to Jesus. He is able to fight for you and to face it with you. To overcome fear, we have to cling to Jesus. We have to call on Him and trust in Him. Whatever "giants" make us afraid, Jesus is able to deal with them all.

Joshua gives the people rest.

Joshua 11:23 says, "So Joshua took the whole land . . . And the land rested from war." God had promised a place of rest through Moses (**Joshua 1:13, 15**). For Israel, rest meant more than wandering through the land and no more war. It meant home and cessation of conflict. They were entering into the settled peace that God has for His people. Joshua secured this for them and distributed it to them.

Again, we see how Joshua is a picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One who has fought and won for us. He purchased peace for us. He purchased peace with God. Through Christ, we are reconciled to God. We have become His loved and adopted children. He has given us peace with others. By the blood of His Cross, He enables us to enter into deep and abiding relationships with others. He has purchased peace with ourselves. We don't have to be riddled with guilt, anxiety, and fear. We can have a peace that passes understanding and guards our hearts.

Jesus distributes this peace to us in a variety of ways. We come to know and experience it when we hear and believe the gospel. We continue to experience that peace through the Word and the Spirit. We can have that peace through prayer and fellowship with believers.

Have you come to know the peace that only Jesus can give? You can have it by turning from your sin to trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you will acknowledge that you are a sinner and will trust in Him alone to save you, you can experience His peace.

Perhaps you confess Christ. If you need His peace, it's only a prayer away. If you need help with the giants of fear, He is ready to fight for you and face it with you. Jesus is the greater Joshua and you can depend on Him in your daily struggles.

World Prayer Plan

March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d'Ivoire
- 7-Cuba-The Church
- 8-Cuba-The Lost
- 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism
- 10-Cyprus
- 11-Czech Republic
- 12-Slovakia
- 13-Denmark
- 14-Djibouti
- 15-Dominica
- 16-Dominican Republic

17-Ecuador
 18-Egypt-The Church
 19-Egypt-The Lost
 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers
 21-El Salvador
 22-Equatorial Guinea
 23-Eritrea
 24-Estonia
 25-Ethiopia-The Church
 26-Ethiopia-The Lost
 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers
 28-Faeroe Islands
 29-Falkland Islands
 30-Croatia-The Church
 31-Croatia-The Lost

April

1-Fiji
 2-France-The Church
 3-France-The Lost
 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel
 5-France-Missionaries
 6-French Guiana
 7-French Polynesia
 8-Gabon
 9-Gambia
 10-Gaza Strip
 11-Georgia
 12-Germany-The Church
 13-Germany-The Lost
 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare
 15-Ghana
 16-Gibraltar
 17-Greece
 18-Greenland
 19-Grenada
 20-Guadeloupe
 21-Guam
 22-Guatemala
 23-Guinea
 24-Guinea-Bissau
 25-Guyana
 26-Haiti

27-Holy See (Vatican)
 28-Honduras
 29-Hong Kong
 30-Hungary-The Church

Dr. Kevin Meador, President
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
 P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332
 (601) 635-2180 (601) 646-5960

EMAIL:
prayer@prayerclosetministries.org

WEB PAGES:
www.prayerclosetministries.org
www.kingdompraying.com