



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
May/June, 2020

The Kings And King Jesus

Joshua 12 closes the first major section of the book. Israel enters the land in **1-5**. **Joshua 6-12** details the conquest of Canaan. **Chapter 12** contains many familiar place names. It gives us a comprehensive view of the conquest. Why does Joshua go back and review the conquering of Canaan? It's a reminder that only the Lord reigns over the Promised Land. He will allow no rivals to rule in the land or the hearts of His people.

Joshua 12 is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on the conquest led by Moses (**1-6**). The second part focuses on the victories of Joshua (**7-24**).

The Conquest Led By Moses

Joshua 12 starts out with a general introduction, "Now these are the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the

other side Jordan toward the rising of the sun from the river Arnon unto mount Hermon, and all the plain of the east (**12:1**). The emphasis in this section

is on the fact that Moses defeated the kings, "smote," and then possessed their land.

Two primary victories are mentioned in this section. First, Moses and Israel defeated Sihon king of the Amorites (**12:2-3**). Sihon reigned over an area that fits inside the modern Jordan. As Israel sojourned, they wanted to go through Sihon's land peacefully and quietly. However, he mustered his army and went out to fight against them. Sihon and his nation paid dearly for his hard-heartedness. Israel defeated him and his forces and took possession of his land (**Numbers 21:24**).

Og is the second king defeated by Moses and Israel (**12:4-6**). The details of this battle are recorded in **Numbers 21**. Og came out against Israel and Israel defeated them and took possession of their land. In **12:6**, the text refers to Moses as the "servant of the LORD." It's a reminder that Moses was God's servant, God's man carrying out God's purpose.

What can we learn from these ancient battles and conquests? First, it's a reminder that victory is the gracious gift of God. When Israel had to face these kings,

they weren't experienced in battle. They had not had to face an enemy head on. Now, they have to face two powerful kings. Yet, God is gracious and enables them to win the victory.

We have some powerful enemies – Satan, the world, and the flesh. They can overwhelm us if we take our eyes off the Lord. The Lord alone can give us victory in the battles we have. This text is a reminder that He fights with us and for us. We are not alone in the battles, but serve the Lord who can give victory.

Second, Israel bolstered and strengthened their faith by looking back to these victories. When they were crossing the Jordan, the memory of these past victories over Sihon and Og were firmly embedded in their minds. They used the past victories to remind them of God's faithfulness and to press on to do God's will.

Memory is important in the Christian life. We are to look back and remember what God has done in the past. To remember is to purposefully call to mind what God has done in the past. We are to look back to the greatest victory of all – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! As we look back to that, it strengthens our faith, gives us hope, and assures us that God is for us and is with us.

The Conquest Led By Joshua

In **12:7**, the focus turns to Joshua. It begins naturally with the kings of Jericho and Ai (**12:9**). The rest of the chapter details the defeat of 31 kings of Canaan. It serves as an official conquest list and reminder of all that the LORD did in behalf of Israel.

You may be wondering, "What can I learn from a list of defeated kings?" I mean, I'm sure many believers either skim or skip over this section of Scripture. But, it is the inspired Word of God. It's here for a reason.

First, this reminds us that every ruler who opposed God went down in defeat. It's a powerful lesson with application today. It's true for anyone but especially leaders. Leaders can become so arrogant that they don't feel accountable to anyone. Yet, this text is a reminder that God will crush the rebellion of rulers. Those rulers who harden their heart to God and His Word will face His judgment and His wrath.

Second, Israel's conquest is a testimony to God's absolute sovereignty. Israel had never been a powerful military force. The fact that they were able to go into Canaan, defeat 31 kings, and take possession of the land points to God's sovereignty. The Lord of heaven and earth alone could do this for them. The Lord is the Lord of the impossible.

As you read this list of kings, it ought to increase your confidence in the

power of the Lord. God did use Moses and Joshua. But ultimately it was the Lord's power that accomplished this. Your Lord is able! When you go into battle, you can have confidence in Him. When you feel overwhelmed, He has the power to help and deliver you. This ancient account ought to provide you with courage and a willingness to trust the Lord no matter what.

Next, this text is a reminder that the Lord is King of His people. It's unfortunate that Israel didn't learn this lesson. They defeated 31 kings and then later turned around and wanted a king! They wanted a king to be like the nations of the world. The history of the kings of Israel was one of spiritual disaster and defeat. There were unique and wonderful exceptions. However, overall, Israel's kings led the people away from the Lord and His Word.

This is a reminder to us to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. The Lord does have authorities to guide and help us – spiritual authorities (**1 Timothy 3**) and civil authorities (**Romans 13**). We are to acknowledge them and submit to them. However, ultimately, the Lord is our King and we are accountable to Him.

Joshua 12 gives us a picture of what Jesus would do. Moses and Joshua defeated the enemies of God's people. This points to Jesus who would finally and fully defeat all of our enemies. All the power of hell could not defeat Him. The world could not conquer Him. He lived,

died, and rose again in victory! **Joshua 12** anticipates the King of kings who will defeat all His and our enemies. By faith, we share in that victory!

Finally, **Joshua 12** points us to the future. With the fall of these kings, their kingdoms become the Lord's. That makes this a microcosm of the ultimate and final triumph of God's kingdom. This is a preview of what Jesus will do one day. He will return, defeat His enemies, and reign as Lord over all the earth. This chapter is an Old Testament foreshadow of Revelation 11, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (11:15). Jesus the King is coming to conquer and reign! Have you surrendered your life to Him?

World Prayer Plan

July

- 1-Luxembourg
- 2-Macao
- 3-Macedonia
- 4-Madagascar
- 5-Malawi
- 6-Malaysia-The Church
- 7-Malaysia-The Lost
- 8-Malaysia-Open Doors
- 9-Maldives
- 10-Mali
- 11-Malta
- 12-Marshall Islands
- 13-Martinique
- 14-Mauritania

15-Mauritius
 16-Mexico-The Church
 17-Mexico-The Lost
 18-Micronesia
 19-Midway Islands
 20-Moldova
 21-Monaco
 22-Mongolia
 23-Montserrat
 24-Morocco-The Church
 25-Morocco-The Lost
 26-Morocco-Persecuted Believers
 27-Mozambique-The Church
 28-Mozambique-The Lost
 29-Myanmar (Burma)-The Church
 30-Myanmar (Burma)-The Lost
 31-Namibia

August

1-Nauru
 2-Nepal-The Church
 3-Nepal-The Lost
 4-Nepal-Mission Efforts
 5-Netherlands
 6-Netherland Antilles
 7-New Caledonia
 8-New Zealand
 9-Nicaragua
 10-Niger
 11-Nigeria-The Church
 12-Nigeria-The Lost
 13-Norway
 14-Oman
 15-Pakistan-The Church
 16-Pakistan-The Lost
 17-Pakistan-Open Doors
 18-Pakistan-Persecuted Believers
 19-Palau
 20-Palestine West Bank-Open Doors
 21-Palestine West Bank-Peace
 22-Panama
 23-Papua New Guinea-The Church
 24-Papua New Guinea-The Lost

25-Paraguay
 26-Peru-The Church
 27-Peru-The Lost
 28-Philippines-The Church
 29-Philippines-The Lost
 30-Pitcairn Island
 31-Poland-The Church

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