

The Lord Gave Israel Victory (and the Land)

Joshua 10:16-12:24

I. Where We Are in Joshua

- A. Entered the land God promised to give them (ch. 1-5)
- B. Conquering the land (ch. 5-12)

II. God Grants Israel Victory over the Southern Kings (Josh. 10:16-43)

- A. The victory is ultimately from the Lord (Josh. 10:19, 25; Gen. 15:13-16)
- B. The victory is over God's enemies.
 - 1. They are under the curse of God - being hung on a tree (Deut. 21:22-23)
 - 2. They put under foot (Gen. 3; Psalm 110:1, 5-6; 1 Cor. 15:24-27)

III. God Grants Israel Victory over the Northern Kings (Josh. 11)

- A. Setting: outmanned and outgunned (Josh. 11:1-5)
- B. Divine sovereignty leads to human action: trusting the Lord on display (Josh. 11:6-9; see Deut. 20:1, Ps. 20:6-9)
- C. Joshua destroys many of the enemies in the north (Josh. 11:10-15)
- D. Wrap up of the war in Canaan (Josh. 11:16-23)
 - 1. God hardened their hearts (11:20, see also Exodus 4-14)
 - a. What is it?
 - (i) People have spiritually stony hearts.
 - (ii) They pour cement mix on their hearts by continuing to reject the truth about God that they see.
 - (iii) God's attributes still shine like the sun. He hardens the concrete.
 - b. Compare with Romans 1:18-24
v. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
 - 2. Who were the Anakim? (Num. 13:31-33)
 - a. The one major fear they had was based on "facts" but did not take God into account.
 - b. This is often our situation. Trust and obey, leaving the outcome to God = faith that produces courage.

IV. Israel's Version of the Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (Josh. 12)

"If we were to train ourselves to recognize God's goodness act by act and detail by detail, many of us would come to think more highly both of God and of the Church. Much of our despondency comes from failing to see how much God has really achieved" (H.L. Ellison, quoted in Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, 103).