

# **Joshua Fights for God**

## **Lesson 3, September 20. 2026**

### **Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23**



# **Study Outline**

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**Introduction | Background | Context**

**1. At the River (Joshua 11:6–9)**

**2. Going through the Land (Joshua 11:16–23)**

**3. Conclusion – Sobering Events of Salvation History**

**Prayer | Thought to Remember | Benediction**

## **Lesson Aims 📖**

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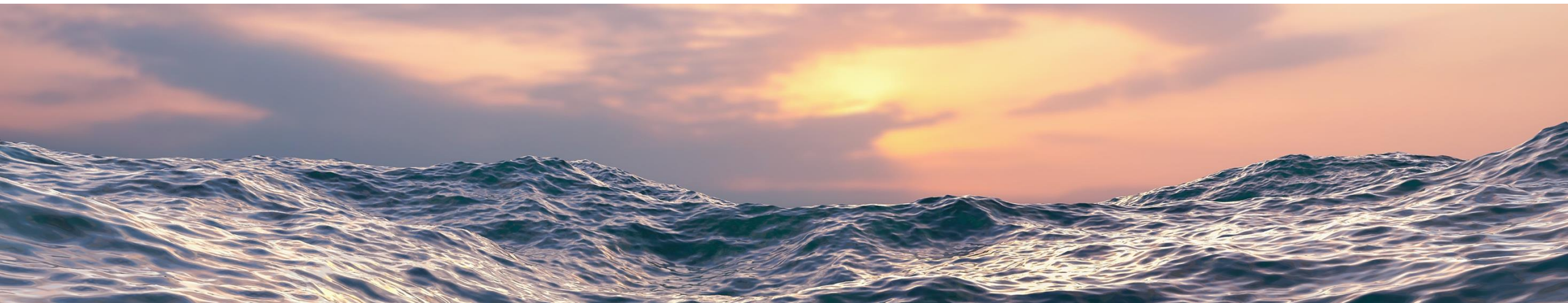
**After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to:**

- 1. Identify challenging phrases and circumstances in the text and our own lives.**
- 2. Explain how Joshua's actions made way for the receipt of the Lord's inheritance.**
- 3. Discuss why this text presents challenges to modern readers.**

# **GOD'S POWER THROUGH GENERATIONS**

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**Egyptian Bondage → Exodus → Red Sea →  
40-Year Wilderness → Moses to Joshua →  
Jordan River → Jericho → Canaan Victories'  
GOD'S DELAY IS NOT GOD'S DENIAL.**



## **Lesson Context: Historical**

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**After crossing the Jordan River , Joshua led the Israelites through the land of Canaan. This campaign included the victories at Jericho and Ai (8:1-29). However, the Israelites were deceived by the Gibeonites, because they did not consult with God first about their agreement.**

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# Our Text and Setting

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**Joshua 11:6-9 and 16-23 describes Israel's northern campaign in Canaan. A coalition with horses and chariots seemed overwhelming. God answered Joshua's fear with assurance, direction, and a promise of victory.**

# Section 1: At the River Joshua 11:6-9

Assurance, action, obedience, power,



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# Questions on God's Presence

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- 1. Can you recall a time when you sensed God encouraging you to be not afraid?**
- 2. How do God's presence and provision strengthen you when the future feels uncertain?**

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## **Joshua 11:6 -7**

**The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots."**

**So, Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them.**

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## **Joshua 11:8-9**

**8, The LORD gave them into the hand of Israel.  
They defeated them and pursued them to Greater  
Sidon, Misrephoth Maim, and the Valley of Mizpah  
on the east, until no survivors were left.**

**9, Joshua did to them as the LORD had directed.  
He hamstringed their horses and burned  
their chariots.**

# A KEY POINT TO REMEMBER ★

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**God did not deny the size of the threat.**

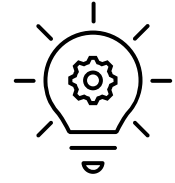
**He addressed Joshua before the battle and anchored courage in divine presence.**

**Joshua's confidence rested in God's promise, not in the apparent balance of military power.**

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# **Something to Think About**

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## **Why Disable the Horses and Chariots?**

**Canaanite chariots represented military advantage. God ordered Israel not to build its security on captured power. God's command trained Israel to trust the LORD as its true defense rather than weapons, speed, or status.**

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# **The Battle of Thermopylae**

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**In 480 BC, about 7,000 Greek troops used a narrow pass to resist a larger Persian army.**

**Skill and terrain delayed the advance.**

**Joshua's campaign offers a contrast.**

**Scripture names the LORD as the source of victory.**

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# Three Key Points to Remember

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- 1. God's presence speaks directly to fear.**
- 2. Faith joins trust with obedient action.**
- 3. Victory must never replace God as the believer's source of confidence.**

# Going Through the Land - Joshua 11:16-23

Campaign, judgment, inheritance and rest.



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## **Joshua 11:16**

**So, Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah, and the mountains of Israel with their foothills.**

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## **Joshua 11:17**

**From Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir,  
to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon  
below Mount Hermon. He captured all their  
kings and put them to death.**

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## **Joshua 11:18-19**

**18, Joshua waged war against all these kings  
for a long time.**

**19, Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not  
one city made a treaty of peace with the  
Israelites, who took them all in battle.**

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## **Joshua 11:20**

**For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.**

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# **Questions for Our Present Battles ?**

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- 1. What are we battling today: fear, temptation, injustice, resentment, or spiritual fatigue?**
- 2. Who are we treating as the enemy?**
- 3. Are we obeying God's command in this conflict?**
- 4. Why must we release our battles unto God?**

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# Questions on the Heart

- 1. What are ways we can guard against developing hardened hearts toward God?**
- 2. How can prayer, repentance, Bible study, and community keep the heart open and responsive?**

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## **Joshua 11:21**

**At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns.**

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# **When Obedience Becomes Action**

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**Joshua received God's word, then moved.  
The sudden attack joined prayerful trust with  
wise action.**

**Biblical faith does not excuse  
passivity. It responds to God's direction  
with courage, discipline, and proper timing.**

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## **Joshua 11:22,23**

**No Anakites were left in Israelite territory.  
Only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.  
23, So, Joshua took the entire land, just as the  
LORD had directed Moses, and gave it as an  
inheritance to Israel according to their tribal  
divisions.**

**Then the land had rest from war.**

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# **The Anakites and Old Fears**

**The Anakites once terrified Israel's spies.  
Their size became a symbol of impossible odds.  
Joshua 11 returns to that old fear and shows  
that what paralyzed one generation could be  
faced through trust and obedience.**

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# Three Key Points to Remember

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- 1. Endurance may be part of obedience.**
- 2. A guarded heart stays open to correction.**
- 3. God's gifts bring both rest and continuing responsibility.**

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## Closing Reflection

**God met Joshua at the point of fear and called him into obedient trust. Where fear has delayed us, God invites us to surrender and let his spirit guide us. Israel's history teaches believers not that they will never face an impossible situation, but that an impossible situation is never evidence that God has lost His power.**

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# Invitation

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**Believers, return every fear and unfinished struggle to the God who remains faithful.**

**If you do not yet know Christ, you are welcome to come, ask, listen, and receive the grace that brings forgiveness, freedom, and new life.**

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# **Pause For the Cause**

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- 1. Which fear has been naming your limits?**
- 2. Which act of obedience have you delayed?**
- 3. What must you do release to totally trust God?**
- 4. Are you willing to trust God today?**

# **SINNER'S PRAYER**

**“Lord Jesus Christ,  
I Admit that I am a sinner and I ask for Your  
forgiveness.**

**I Believe You died for my sins and rose from  
the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to  
come into my heart and life.**

**I Commit to trust and follow You as my Lord  
and Saviour.**

**In Your Name, Amen”**

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# **Closing Prayer**

**Lord God, give us wisdom for difficult texts,  
courage for present battles, and hearts that remain  
open to your correction. Teach us to surrender  
fear, obey your word and rest in your faithful  
grace.**

**Draw every seeking heart to Christ. Amen.**