

The Tsunami Blessing: Inside and Out, Part 51

There is nothing quite like having the favor of God at all times, especially during combat. When the Lord commands the battle, He always remains the Conqueror. When you are on His side, you are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. Yes, you can win every battle every time. You are only left at a disadvantage whenever you don't go into the war room to consult with your Commander-in-Chief.

God already prepared a table for you in the presence of your enemies. You will gain favor with the enemy as allies or you will have favor over your enemies, who are in God's hands to judge. You will accurately discern the deception of even frenemies. Create space for God alone. By surrendering all your territory into in the care of the Lord, the enemy remains excluded from trying to take any space. Allow God to be your Defense.

Impactive: having a strong effect or influence; making an impression.

The Promise of God

Joshua 1 The Voice (VOICE)

1 Moses served the Eternal One *faithfully until the end of his days*. After his death, the Eternal singled out Joshua, the son of Nun, who had walked at the right hand of Moses *during the wilderness wanderings*.

Eternal One (to Joshua): ²Since My servant Moses is now dead, you and the Israelites must prepare to cross over the Jordan River to enter the land I have given you. ³I will give you every place you walk, wherever your feet touch, just as I promised Moses.^[a] ⁴From the *southern deserts to the northern mountains in Lebanon*, from the great Euphrates River *in the east*—including all the land of the Hittites—to the great *Mediterranean Sea* in the west, all of it is yours. ⁵No one will be able to oppose you for as long as you live. I will be with you just as I was with Moses, and I will never fail or abandon you.

⁶So be strong and courageous, for you will lead this people as they acquire and then divide the land I promised to their ancestors. ⁷Always be strong and courageous, and always live by all of the law I gave to my servant Moses, never turning from it—even ever so slightly—so that you may

succeed wherever you go. ⁸Let *the words from* the book of the law be always on your lips. Meditate on them day and night so that you may be careful to live by all that is written in it. If you do, as you make your way *through this world*, you will prosper and always find success.

⁹This is My command: be strong and courageous. Never be afraid or discouraged because *I am* your God, the Eternal One, *and I* will remain with you wherever you go.

Joshua is following in the footsteps of the famous prophet, Moses, who led the people of Israel out of Egypt. It is a journey that will lead them where God wants them—in the lands He has long ago promised to the descendants of the patriarch Abraham. Although mighty people occupy the lands, God tells the Israelites that the land will be theirs, if they only believe. Joshua is reminded often enough of the wanderings in the desert following Moses. It's an intimidating thing to follow a legend, but the charge God gives Joshua also gives him what he needs to succeed: Be strong and courageous, and keep the words of God always in front of you. If you do those things, then you can't go wrong. And if you do those things, God says He will be with you.

¹⁰When Joshua had heard God's commands, he gathered the leaders of the people of Israel and gave them their instructions.

Joshua (to all the leaders): ¹¹Go through the camp and tell your people, "Gather whatever you need because in three days you will pass over the Jordan into the land the Eternal One, your God, has given you to possess. Soon it will be ours."

¹²Then Joshua spoke to *the leaders of* Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

Joshua: ¹³Remember what Moses, the servant of the Eternal, told you: "The Eternal One, your God, is making a place for you to settle and will give you this land *as your own*."

¹⁴Your wives, your children, and your livestock will stay on this side of the Jordan in this land that Moses awarded you. But all of you who can fight must lead your brothers in battle formation over the Jordan and help

them ¹⁵until the Eternal gives them rest *from their enemies*, as He has given rest to you. *Fight with them* until they, too, occupy the land your God, the Eternal One, is setting aside for them. Then you may *cross the Jordan again and* return to this land that Moses, His servant, has given you east of the Jordan and live here.

Leaders (agreeing): ¹⁶We will do all you have commanded, and we will go wherever you send us. ¹⁷We will follow your orders just as we obeyed Moses in all he told us. May the Eternal One, your God, be with you as He was with Moses. ¹⁸Anybody who rebels against or disobeys your words—all you command—will be put to death. Always be strong and courageous!

The Presence of God

Joshua 3:9-17 The Voice (VOICE)

⁹So Joshua called the Israelites together.

Joshua: Come closer, and hear what your God, the Eternal, has to say: ¹⁰*Today* you will see a sign that the *one, true* living God is present among you, the God who will without doubt drive out all this land's inhabitants: Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites. ¹¹The covenant chest of the Lord of all the earth will pass in front of you into the *Jordan River*. ¹²Now select twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel. ¹³When the priests who bear the covenant chest of the Eternal, who is Lord over all the earth, step into the river, then you will see the waters of the Jordan stop as if behind a wall.

¹⁴So the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan, with the priests carrying the covenant chest before them. ¹⁵During harvest time the Jordan is swollen, running over its banks; but when the priests stepped into the river's edge, ¹⁶⁻¹⁷the waters stopped, piling upstream at the city of Adam, near Zarethan, while the water flowing downstream toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, ran out. Then the Israelites crossed *the Jordan* opposite *the city of Jericho*, walking on dry land *just as Moses had led their ancestors from Egypt*. While the Israelites crossed on the dry riverbed, the priests who carried the covenant chest stood firmly in the middle of the Jordan until the last Israelite had crossed over.

The Possession of the Promise

Joshua 5:13-15 Amplified Bible (AMP)

¹³Now when Joshua was by Jericho, he looked up, and behold, ^[a]a man was standing opposite him with his drawn sword in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴He said, "No; rather I have come now as captain of the army of the LORD." Then Joshua fell with his face toward the earth and bowed down, and said to him, "What does my lord have to say to his servant?" ¹⁵The captain of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy (set apart to the LORD)." And Joshua did so.

Footnotes:

- a. [Joshua 5:13](#) Whether the divine messenger was an angel or the pre-incarnate Christ is not clear from the Hebrew text; however, the message of godly assistance and pending victory was made clear to Joshua by the encounter.

Proactive: (of a person, policy, or action) creating or controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to it after it has happened.

Joshua 2 The Voice (VOICE)

Joshua has the promise of God that the Israelites will succeed, and the people have taken to his leadership with enthusiasm. They have begun well, and their faith will keep them strong. But in the conquest story they cannot expect God to do everything. A prayer from the Christian and Jewish traditions reminds us: Pray as if everything depends upon God; work as if everything depends upon us. Throughout the story of God's people, the partnership between human beings' faith and God's power leads to God's purposes being fulfilled in human lives.

2 Then Joshua, the son of Nun, secretly sent two spies from Shittim *to the western side of the Jordan*.

Joshua: Go in, and see what you can find out about *the people in* that area. Pay special attention to *the city of Jericho*.

The men crossed the river, and when they entered Jericho, they stayed at the home of a prostitute named Rahab.

²⁻³ *Somehow word reached the king of Jericho that Israelite spies had slipped into the area and might be visiting Rahab. That night the king sent soldiers to Rahab's house with a message.*

Messengers: *The king commands you to turn over the Israelite men who are staying with you because they are here to spy on all the land and its defenses.*

⁴ *But Rahab had already hidden the two spies before she received the king's messengers.*

Rahab: *It's true that two men have been to see me. But I didn't take the time to ask them where they came from. ⁵All I know is that when it was getting dark outside and the gate was about to close, they got up and left. I don't know where they went from here. If you hurry, you might still catch up to them.*

⁶ *She was lying, because the two men lay where she had hidden them beneath the stalks of flax laid out on her roof.*

⁷ *The soldiers ordered the gate opened long enough for them to pass through; then the gate was closed. They took the road that went straight toward the narrowest parts of the Jordan, which would be the easiest place for the spies to cross.*

⁸ *But the two spies were still on Rahab's roof. She came up and found them awake.*

Rahab: ⁹ *I know the Eternal has given your people this land. Your coming has paralyzed us all with fear. ¹⁰We have heard how the Eternal held back the Red Sea so you could escape from Egypt on dry land and how you completely destroyed the Amorite kings, Sihon and Og—and their kingdoms—on the far side of the Jordan. ¹¹As soon as this news reached us, our hearts melted like wax and none of us had an ounce of courage left. The Eternal One, your God, is truly God of the heavens above and the earth below.*

¹²Because I know all these things, *this is my request*: Since I have treated you kindly *and have protected you*, please promise me by the Eternal that you will do the same for my family. Give me some sign of good faith ¹³that *when you destroy this city you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and their families from death.*

Spies: ¹⁴*You had the power to turn us in, but you saved us.* Now we will do the same for you. If you will promise not to tell anyone what we were doing here, *then you have our word*: we will treat you with kindness and faithfulness when the Eternal One gives us the land.

¹⁵Since the rear wall of her house was actually part of the *great city wall*, she helped the men escape by simply lowering a rope for them from her window. ¹⁶*Before they climbed down*, she advised them to go into the mountains.

Rahab: That way you won't be where the soldiers expect you to be. If you'll hide there for three days, the pursuers should have returned here by then and you can go back safely.

Spies: ¹⁷We will keep the oath we have sworn to you, but ¹⁸only if you will follow these instructions: Gather all of your family here in this house, and tie this scarlet cord in the window where you let us down. ¹⁹If anyone goes out of the house and into the streets, then we can't be responsible for what happens to them. *They will be killed*, and their blood will be on their hands, not on ours. We will be responsible if anything should happen to anyone you gather in here. ²⁰But remember—*all of this depends on you keeping your word*. If you tell anyone our business, you will free us from our oath.

Rahab: ²¹Agreed.

The men climbed down and escaped *into the night*, and she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

The story of Rahab reminds us that throughout the history of Israel, unexpected people have stepped to the foreground to be used by God. Rahab is a woman in a male-centered world; and she is a prostitute, the

kind of person we typically vilify. But if she doesn't rescue these men—and help them escape with the information they have gained—this first campaign in the land of Canaan will fail, and the larger outcome may be complicated—or worse. Her reward is life for herself and those she loves, which tells us that even in a war story like this one, God can be merciful.

²²The spies climbed into the mountains, *just as Rahab had advised them*, and they stayed for three days. During that time Jericho's soldiers combed the countryside and watched the road *heading east* looking for them. Finally they went back *to the city*. ²³So the two spies came down from their hiding place, crossed over *the Jordan*, and returned to Joshua (son of Nun), where they told him what had happened.

Spies: ²⁴There is no doubt that the Eternal One has delivered all the land *and its citizens* into our hands. Everyone there is scared to death about our coming.

Interactive: (of two people or things) influencing or having an effect on each other.

Joshua 6 The Voice (VOICE)

6 The citizens of Jericho had barricaded themselves *behind its high walls* because of the Israelite forces. No one could get in or out.

Eternal One (to Joshua): ²I have given Jericho, its king, and all its soldiers into your hands. ³Every day for the next six days, you will march once around the city *walls* with all your fighting force. ⁴Seven priests will go in front of the covenant chest, each carrying a trumpet made from a ram's horn. On the seventh day, you will march around the city *walls* seven times, and the priests will blow their trumpets. ⁵When they play a long *final* blast, then all the people will give a mighty shout. The city walls will collapse *in front of you*, and all the Israelites will charge in *and take the city*.

⁶So Joshua, the son of Nun, summoned the priests and instructed them.

Joshua: Take up the chest and have seven priests, each carrying a ram's horn trumpet, march in front of the covenant chest of the Eternal.

⁷Then he gave orders to the people.

Joshua: March around the city with the fighting men marching ahead of the chest of the Eternal.

⁸⁻⁹So they all proceeded as Joshua had commanded them. The fighting men led the way; the seven priests marched after them, blowing their horns continually in front of the covenant chest of the Eternal, and the rear guard followed behind.

¹⁰Joshua gave the Israelites *very strict* instructions.

Joshua: Don't yell or shout. Don't let your voice be heard until the day I tell you. And then I want you to shout *with all your might*.

¹¹So they circled the city once, carrying the covenant chest of the Eternal, and that night they returned to their camp. ¹²The next morning, Joshua rose early, the priests carried the chest of the Eternal, ¹³⁻¹⁴and they all marched around the city *in exactly the same order as* they had the day before: the armed men, seven trumpeting priests, the chest of the Eternal, and the rear guard, all making one complete circuit *around the city with its great walls*. That night they returned to their camp, and the next four days proceeded just like the first two.

¹⁵But on the seventh day, they rose with the sun and the procession marched around the city walls seven times; that was the only day they made seven circuits around the city *walls*. ¹⁶After the seventh *and final* circuit, when the priests had raised a *mighty* noise on their trumpets, Joshua turned to the people.

Joshua: Shout! *Shout!* For the Eternal One has given you the city! ¹⁷The city and all who are in it will be destroyed completely as an offering to Him, except for the prostitute Rahab and those who are with her in her house. Her life will be spared as a reward for sheltering our two spies.

¹⁸Be sure to stay away from these things that He has devoted to complete destruction so that you won't be tempted to pick something up and carry it away. *Anyone who disobeys God in this matter* will bring destruction on all of us.

¹⁹Any silver or gold, any bronze or iron vessels *should not be burned*; instead, they should be set aside for the Eternal's treasury.

²⁰Then the people shouted, and the trumpets blasted. The noise of the voices and trumpets rose higher and higher, and the *thick* walls of Jericho collapsed, *just as God had promised*. *When the wall fell before them*, they rushed straight ahead and took the city, ²¹killing everyone—all the men and women and children, all the cattle and livestock—with their swords.

Joshua (*to the two spies*): ²²Go back to the house of the prostitute, and bring her out with all of those who have hidden there so that you can keep your word.

²³So they set off *through the destruction*, found Rahab's house, and brought her and all she had—father and mother, brothers *and sisters*, and all her relatives—*out of the fallen city* to a place outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴So Jericho was destroyed completely, burned to the ground except for the precious metals and iron and bronze vessels that were put into the treasury of the Eternal's house. ²⁵But Joshua spared the life of Rahab the prostitute, all her family, and all she had because she was faithful to the spies he had sent, and she lived among the Israelites from that day on.

²⁶*When the city lay in smoke and ashes*, Joshua pronounced a curse.

Joshua: May the Eternal curse anyone who ever rebuilds this city, this Jericho! If he lays new foundations, it will be over the grave of his firstborn; if he raises new gates, it will be to contain the corpse of his youngest!

²⁷The Eternal One had helped Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Reactive: acting in response to a situation rather than creating or controlling it.

Joshua 9 The Voice (VOICE)

It's important to remember who you are and what you're fighting for. By gathering everyone and reading the law of Moses to them, Joshua unites the

people of Israel in their shared past, present, and future and orients them toward God in their new land.

9 Now when the kings of the land who were beyond the Jordan in the highlands and along the coast of the Mediterranean—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites—heard what had happened, ²they unified to oppose Joshua and Israel.

³But the people of Gibeon, *who were Hivites, had a different idea* when they heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai. ⁴*Knowing that Joshua might turn his attention to them next, they decided to use their wits, not their military might.* They formed a *delegation to serve as envoys* and gathered the most worn-out sacks for their donkeys and worn-out, patched-up wineskins they could find. ⁵They took some ragged sandals and patched them. They dressed in threadbare clothes—*all so it would look as though they had come from far away.* Even the food they carried was dry and moldy, *as though it had been carried a long distance.*

⁶These envoys went to Gilgal to meet with Joshua and the men of Israel.

Gibeonite Envoys (*to Joshua and the men of Israel*): We have traveled from a far country and beg you to make a treaty *of peace* with us.

Israelites: ⁷How can we make a treaty with you? How do we know you aren't from around here?

The words from the Lord in Deuteronomy are very clear: Do not make a covenant or show favor with anyone in the land. This instruction, of course, is broken many times by Israel ([Deuteronomy 7:2](#)).

Gibeonite Envoys (*to Joshua*): ⁸We are your servants.

Joshua: Who are you? Where do you come from?

Gibeonite Envoys: ⁹Your servants have made the journey from a distant country because *even there* the name of the Eternal One your God is in the air. We have heard of what He did for you in Egypt ¹⁰and what He did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan (King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan who lived in Ashtaroth). ¹¹So our elders *gathered*

us together and directed us to take provisions for a *long* journey so we could tell you we are your servants. Please, *we beg you*, make a treaty with us.

¹²Look. Here *is all that remains of* our bread. It was *fresh*, warm *from the oven*, when we set out, but now it is nothing but mold and crumbs. ¹³And these patched-up wineskins were new and full when we left home. And our clothes, our sandals are worn—you can see that we have traveled a very long way.

¹⁴The leaders did not consult the Eternal. They broke bread with the messengers, ¹⁵and Joshua offered them a treaty of peace, with the leaders of Israel swearing an oath to bind it.

¹⁶Three days after they had sworn peace with these *deceptive* messengers, they discovered the visitors were *Gibeonites from the land of Canaan*, their neighbors, who, in fact, were living in part of the land *God had promised the Israelites*. ¹⁷So the Israelites went to their cities: Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim on the third day, ¹⁸but they did not attack them. *Even though they had been tricked into making a treaty*, an oath made in the name of the Eternal was sacred. The people of Israel grumbled and complained against their leaders, ¹⁹but they replied to the entire congregation.

Leaders: *Look*, we have sworn an oath in the name of the Eternal God of Israel, and we must not touch them. ²⁰If we *attack them now and break our word*, *God's* anger will fall on us. Let them live *and serve us*.

²¹So the leaders kept their promise to the Gibeonites who became servants of the entire congregation, cutting their wood and drawing their water.

²²Joshua summoned the Gibeonite leaders.

Joshua (*to the Gibeonite leaders*): Why did you lie to us? Why did you claim to be from far away when really you lived right here among us? ²³Your lie comes with a curse. *You will live, but* you will always be our slaves, carrying our water and chopping wood for the sanctuary of my True God *from now on*.

Gibeonite Leaders (to Joshua): ²⁴We knew for a fact that the Eternal One, your True God, had told His servant Moses that He would give you all of this land and that you would destroy all of the people in it. We were so afraid of you that this seemed the best thing to do. ²⁵But now we are in your hands. Do to us what seems fair and just to you, *and we will accept it.*

²⁶So Joshua spared the Gibeonites from the people of Israel and *certain* death ²⁷but made them servants of the people *of Israel*, chopping their wood and carrying their water, serving the Eternal's sanctuary from that time on, in whatever place he chose as he directed them.

Coactive: acting in concurrence or together **coactive** partners.

Joshua 10 The Voice (VOICE)

10 When Adoni-zedek, the king of Jerusalem, heard that Joshua had totally destroyed the kings and cities of Jericho and Ai, and *when he discovered* that the Israelites had made a treaty with the people of Gibeon and were living alongside Israel, ²he was greatly alarmed. The city of Gibeon was large, *almost* like a royal city, much larger than Ai and with many trained warriors. ³⁻⁵So Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, dispatched messages to King Hoham of Hebron, to King Piram of Jarmuth, to King Japhia of Lachish, and to King Debir of Eglon.

Adoni-zedek (to the Amorite kings): Let us band together and destroy Gibeon, for they have become allies *to these invaders*, Joshua and the Israelites.

So these five kings of the Amorites gathered their forces and came down upon the city of Gibeon *like a mighty wave*. ⁶The Gibeonites, *seeing the camps of these five armies*, sent a message to Joshua in the Israelite camp at Gilgal.

Gibeonites (pleading with Joshua): Please don't abandon your servants. The five kings of the Amorites who live in the hill country have come down to attack us. Come quickly to help us.

⁷So Joshua *honored the oath they had sworn, and he gathered up all of his fighting forces, all the mighty warriors, and went up from Gilgal toward Gibeon.*

Eternal One (to Joshua): ⁸Don't be afraid of the Amorites. *Like Jericho and Ai, I am delivering these armies into your hands. None of them will be able to stand against you.*

⁹Joshua surprised them, having marched his men all night from Gilgal, ¹⁰and the Eternal caused fear and confusion among the Amorite armies at the *sudden* sight of Israel among them. He slaughtered the Amorites at Gibeon *like cattle*, chasing and killing them all the way up Beth-horon, and striking them down as far away as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹As they fled *for their lives* down the far slope of Beth-horon, He hurled huge and deadly hailstones upon them from heaven, as far as Azekah. More Amorites were killed by *God's* hailstones than by the people of Israel *on that day.*

¹²On the day of the Eternal's great slaughter, Joshua consulted with the Eternal One; and then, in front of all the people of Israel, he commanded *the sun and the moon.*

Joshua: Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and Moon, *remain* over the valley of Aijalon.

Gibeon is in the east and Aijalon is in the west, so this is a favorable celestial omen for Israel and an unfavorable omen for the Amorite coalition.

¹³The sun stood still *in the heavens*; and the moon did likewise, *so that the battle could continue* until the Israelites had destroyed their enemies, just as it was written in the scroll of Jashar. The sun stalled in the sky for almost an entire day before it set. ¹⁴There has never been another day like this before or since, when the Eternal so answered a person's prayer, for the Eternal fought for *the people of Israel.*

God proves that He is greater than any of the local gods—that He is above all other gods—by these cosmic miracles. While today, of course, we know that the earth orbits the sun, not vice versa, the story is clear enough: only an all-powerful God can halt the sun and moon in their courses.

¹⁵Joshua and the Israelites later returned to the camp at Gilgal, ¹⁶but the kings slipped away *at the height of the battle* and hid in a cave at Makkedah. ¹⁷Someone told Joshua they had been found hiding there.

Joshua: ¹⁸⁻¹⁹Seal up the mouth of the cave with large stones, and leave men to guard them while we pursue the other forces and attack them from behind. Don't let them reach their towns because the Eternal One, your True God, has given you victory over them.

²⁰When Joshua and the Israelites had killed all those who did not escape back into the fortified cities, ²¹they all returned safely to camp with Joshua at Makkedah, and no one dared to speak a negative word about the Israelites.

Joshua: ²²Open up the cave and bring the five kings before me.

²³They brought forth the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon ²⁴and led them in front of Joshua and the Israelites.

Joshua (*to those who had led the warriors*): Come here. Place your feet upon the necks of these kings.

So the leaders did.

Joshua: ²⁵There's nothing to be afraid of here. Be strong and courageous because the Eternal will do to all our enemies what He has done to these kings.

²⁶Joshua had the kings executed and hung on five trees; and they hung until sunset ²⁷when Joshua commanded they be taken down, *as God's law requires*. Their bodies were thrown into the cave where they had hidden, and the cave was sealed as a tomb by piling stones across the mouth. Their remains lie there to this very day.

²⁸Also on that day Joshua defeated Makkedah and its king, destroying it completely, killing everyone in it and the king, as he had done in Jericho.

²⁹Next Joshua led his forces from Makkedah against Libnah, ³⁰and the Eternal gave the town and its king into their hands. They took no prisoners. They killed everyone *in the town* and destroyed it and the king, as they did to the king of Jericho.

³¹From there Joshua and the Israelites passed on to Lachish and besieged it, ³²and on the second day the Eternal gave Lachish to them. They destroyed it and killed everyone in it, as they had just done to Libnah. ³³When King Horam of Gezer came up to help Lachish, Joshua turned the army against him and his people and destroyed them, leaving no survivors.

³⁴Passing from Lachish, Joshua and the people attacked Eglon, ³⁵and it fell to them on the first day. They killed everyone with the sword and destroyed it completely, as they had Lachish.

³⁶Then Joshua went up with all the forces of Israel from Eglon against Hebron, ³⁷and it fell to them—its king, all of its villages, and all of its people. Joshua killed everyone with the sword and destroyed it as he had destroyed Eglon. ³⁸Lastly Joshua, with all of Israel, attacked Debir ³⁹and took its king, its villages, and all of its people. The Israelites killed them with the sword and destroyed them all. Joshua left no one alive. He did to Debir and its king just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king.

⁴⁰So this is how Joshua *and the Israelites* defeated every area they had encountered: the hill country, the wilderness of the Negev, the coastlands, and the foothills with all the people and all their kings, leaving no one alive, as the Eternal God of Israel had commanded. ⁴¹Joshua won victories from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and through all the country of Goshen as far as Gibeon. ⁴²Joshua was able to capture *and defeat* all these people and all their kings for *one simple reason*: the Eternal God of Israel fought for Israel.

⁴³Then Joshua returned to Gilgal to camp with all the Israelites.

Counteractive: opposing or neutralizing or mitigating an effect by contrary action.

Joshua 11 The Voice (VOICE)

11 When King Jabin of Hazor heard *what Israel had done to the central and southern cities of Canaan*, he sent messengers to King Jobab of Madon, the king of Shimron, the king of Achshaph, ²and the kings who were in the northern hill country, in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west; ³to the Canaanites in the east and the

west; the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country; the Hivites in the foothills of Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpeh, *and to all those who could still fight the invaders.* ⁴They banded together and came out to fight—so many warriors that you could no more count them than you could count the grains of sand on a beach—and *leading them was* a vast number of horses and chariots. ⁵All of these kings pooled their forces, and they camped together by the waters of Merom, ready to make war on Israel.

Eternal One (to Joshua): ⁶Don't be afraid of them. By this time tomorrow, I will have given all of them as dead bodies into your hands. You will disable their horses and burn their chariots.

⁷So Joshua's army came upon them suddenly where they camped beside the waters of Merom and attacked them, ⁸and the Eternal delivered this *vast* army to Israel. They pursued the retreating soldiers as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and to the east as far as the valley of Mizpeh until no one was left to fight. ⁹And Joshua cut the hamstrings of all their horses and burned all the chariots, as the Eternal had commanded.

¹⁰Then Joshua turned against Hazor, which had been the leader of all these armies, and destroyed their king ¹¹and every *living, moving, breathing* creature within, and burned the city. ¹²Joshua moved through each of these cities destroying their armies and putting them all to the sword, including their king, and utterly destroying them as Moses, the servant of the Eternal, had commanded. ¹³But Hazor was the only city Joshua burned to the ground of the cities built up on hills. ¹⁴The Israelites looted all of these towns, taking the goods and the livestock as their own but killing all of the inhabitants with the sword, leaving none alive. ¹⁵The Eternal had commanded His servant, Moses, and Moses had commanded Joshua; so Joshua did everything he had been told until nothing the Eternal had commanded Moses was left undone.

¹⁶So Joshua took all of that land: the hill country, the Negev, and the land of Goshen. *He conquered* the lowland regions, the Arabah, and *central* hill country with its foothills, ¹⁷⁻¹⁸from Mount Halak, near Seir, to Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. Wherever he went *in that land*—and it was a long war—he captured their kings and defeated them and executed them. ¹⁹The only people who were not destroyed in battle were the

Gibeonites (Hivites) who had made peace with the Israelites. ²⁰The Eternal boosted the courage of Israel's enemies so they would come out and oppose Israel as nations receiving no favor but only to be utterly destroyed, just as the Eternal had commanded Moses.

²¹Finally Joshua went to war with the Anakim and wiped them from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hills of Judah *in the south*, and from the hills of Israel *further north*. Joshua's army utterly destroyed them, *their kings, their armies*, and their cities, ²²until not one of the Anakim was left *alive* in the land of the Israelites. Only a few remained in *the Philistine coastal cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod*.

²³So this is how Joshua took the whole land, just as the Eternal had commanded Moses *in the land beyond the Jordan*; Joshua allotted it as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel, and at last the land was quiet from wars.

During the furious accounts of battle, it is hard to see how much has been accomplished. But now we pause to reflect on everything that God has made possible—how many kings, states, and cities the people of Israel have defeated with God's help. We start with those who fell when Moses was leader, and then go on to all those who have fallen since Joshua has been given command.

Joshua 12 The Voice (VOICE)

12 Here begins *a catalog of the conquered*, a list of the kings of the land who met defeat against the Israelites, and an accounting of the land the Israelites gained, beginning with the eastern side of the Jordan, from the valley of the Arnon River, north to Mount Hermon, and all the Arabah eastward: ²King Sihon of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon and ruled from Aroer (which is on the edge of the Arnon Valley), to the middle of the valley as far *north* as the river Jabbok, the boundary of the Ammonites (including half of Gilead), ³and the Arabah to the Sea of Galilee^[a] eastward, and in the direction of Beth-jeshimoth, to the Dead Sea,^[b]and south to the foot of the slopes of *Mount Pisgah*; ⁴King Og of Bashan, one of the last of the Rephaim *giants* who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, ⁵and who ruled from Mount Hermon and Salecah *in the north* and over all Bashan to the boundary

of the land of the Geshurites and the Maacathites and half of Gilead, *south* to the boundary of Sihon, king of Heshbon.

⁶It was Moses, the servant of the Eternal, who led the Israelites to defeat these kings; and Moses gave their land to the tribes of Reuben and Gad, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh *that would settle east beyond the Jordan*.

⁷This is a catalog of the kings of the land whom Joshua and the Israelites defeated west of the Jordan, from *the north* at Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon to *the south* at Mount Halak in the wilderness of Seir. Joshua allotted their land to the tribes of Israel *as God directed*: ⁸in the hill country, in the *western* foothills, in the Arabah, on the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negev (*the southern desert*), and in all the land of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

⁹*These are the fallen kings*, one each: the king of Jericho; the king of Ai, which is next to Bethel; ¹⁰the king of Jerusalem; the king of Hebron; ¹¹the king of Jarmuth; the king of Lachish; ¹²the king of Eglon; the king of Gezer; ¹³the king of Debir; the king of Geder; ¹⁴the king of Hormah; the king of Arad; ¹⁵the king of Libnah; the king of Adullam; ¹⁶the king of Makkedah; the king of Bethel; ¹⁷the king of Tappuah; the king of Hopher; ¹⁸the king of Aphek; the king of Lasharon; ¹⁹the king of Madon; the king of Hazor; ²⁰the king of Shimron-meron; the king of Achshaph; ²¹the king of Taanach; the king of Megiddo; ²²the king of Kedesh; the king of Jokneam in Carmel; ²³the king of Dor in Naphath-dor; the king of Goiim in Gilgal; ²⁴and the king of Tirzah: 31 kings in all.

Joshua 24:1-20 The Voice (VOICE)

The Book of Deuteronomy, which precedes Joshua, records Moses giving a similar farewell speech prior to his death. Moses reminded the people of Israel where they had come from and foretold many of the things that later came to pass when they entered into the promised land of Canaan. Joshua's speech does the same thing. He reminds the Israelites of their story, and he warns the people of Israel that if they turn from their faith in God they should expect curses instead of the blessings they have experienced.

24 So Joshua summoned all of the tribes of Israel together at Shechem, all the leaders, judges, officers, and elders, and they stood in the presence of the True God.

Joshua: ²The Eternal One, the True God of Israel has told me to give you this message: “Many years ago, your ancestors, Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the *Euphrates* River where they served other gods. ³But I took your father Abraham and led him over the river and into the land of Canaan, and I made his descendants numerous. I gave him Isaac, ⁴and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the highlands of Seir for a possession, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. ⁵*When the time came for them to be delivered,* I sent Moses and Aaron, I struck Egypt with plagues, and I brought you out of Egypt.

⁶When I brought you out of Egypt, your ancestors were closely pursued by soldiers in their chariots of war to the Red Sea itself. ⁷When they cried out to the Eternal, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians and brought the sea to cover and drown them, every one, in the sea. Your own eyes saw this. You lived in the desert for a long time, *wandering in the wilderness*. ⁸Finally I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the east side of the Jordan. They fought against you; but I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land. I destroyed them before you.

⁹When Balak, son of Zippor, king of Moab, decided to attack Israel, he called on Balaam, the son of Beor, to curse you, ¹⁰but I would not listen to Balaam. All he could do was bless you. I delivered you out of his clutches.

¹¹When you crossed over the Jordan *into the land of Canaan* and came to Jericho, the leaders^[a] of Jericho fought against you. So did the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I gave them all into your power.

¹²I sent hornets ahead of you to run off the two kings of the Amorites; it was not done by your bow or sword. ¹³I delivered to you fields you had not worked and towns you had not built, yet today you live in them. You eat the fruit of olive trees and of grape vineyards you did not even have to plant.”

¹⁴So remember: fear the Eternal and serve Him sincerely and faithfully. Put away from you any gods your ancestors served across the *Euphrates* River or in Egypt, and serve only Him. ¹⁵If you decide that you're not willing to serve Him, then today is the day for you to choose whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors bowed to in the land beyond the great River, or the gods of the Amorites whose country you possess. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Eternal.

This people that complained in the wilderness now acknowledges that God alone gave them this land, and they pledge their faithfulness to Him.

People of Israel (*responding*): ¹⁶Nothing could be further from our minds than abandoning the Eternal to serve other gods. ¹⁷We know that the Eternal One our God rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. We remember that He performed all those great signs in front of us. He protected us from the people we passed as we traveled. ¹⁸*And we know that* He removed the Amorites and all the peoples who lived in Canaan. We, too, will serve the Eternal One, for He is our True God.

Joshua (*warning them*): ¹⁹If you think you will be able to serve the Eternal, you are wrong. He is a holy God and a jealous God; He will not tolerate your shortcomings and your sins. ²⁰If you desert Him and worship these foreign gods, He will fall upon you and totally consume you, even though He has done all this great good for you.