

Joshua 11:1-23 –Trusting God for Complete Victory

Even Bigger Battles Require the Same Trust in God

Joshua had already seen God bring victory at Jericho, Ai, and against the five Amorite kings. But now, an even greater challenge arose. A coalition of kings from the north gathered their armies together—so many warriors that they were described *“like the sand on the seashore.”* They also had chariots and horses, advanced military technology that Israel didn’t possess. From a human perspective, this battle seemed overwhelming.

Yet God reassured Joshua:

“Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain.”
(Joshua 11:6)

This reminds me that no matter how big the battle is, God is still in control. When I face a challenge that feels impossible—a difficult season in life, spiritual opposition, or overwhelming responsibilities—I can trust the same God who has already been faithful in past victories. The size of the enemy doesn’t matter when God is fighting for me.

What battles am I facing today that seem too big? Instead of fearing them, I need to listen to God’s promises and move forward in faith.

God’s Strategy Doesn’t Always Make Sense, but It’s Always Best

God told Joshua to hamstring the enemy’s horses and burn their chariots. From a military perspective, this seemed foolish—why destroy valuable resources that could help Israel in future battles? But God wanted Israel to depend on Him, not on military power.

This challenges me to ask: *Where am I placing my trust?* Do I rely on my own strength, resources, and strategies more than I rely on God?

Psalm 20:7 reminds me:

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”

God may ask me to surrender something I think I need, but if He does, it’s because He wants me to rely on Him alone. His ways are higher than mine (Isaiah 55:8-9), and obedience always leads to greater victory.

Spiritual Battles Require Persistence

Joshua fought this war for a long time (Joshua 11:18). Victory didn’t come instantly—it required endurance, perseverance, and continued trust in God.

The same is true in my spiritual life. There are battles that don’t end overnight. Some struggles—whether against sin, fear, doubt, or difficult circumstances—require me to keep pressing on, trusting that God is working even when I don’t see immediate results.

Do I get discouraged when progress is slow? God calls me to remain faithful, knowing that victory comes in His timing, not mine.

Incomplete Obedience Leads to Future Struggles

Joshua took possession of the land, but some enemies remained. Israel didn't completely drive out all the inhabitants, even though God had commanded them to. These pockets of resistance later became a source of trouble, leading Israel into idolatry and oppression (Judges 2:1-3).

This teaches me a critical lesson: Partial obedience is still disobedience.

Are there areas in my life where I've allowed "small compromises" to remain? Maybe I've surrendered some things to God but still hold on to habits, attitudes, or relationships that I know aren't aligned with His will. If I don't deal with them now, they may cause greater problems later.

God's promise is clear: Every place I step in faith, He gives me victory. But I must fully step into that promise—I can't leave pockets of resistance in my heart and expect to live in complete freedom.

Final Reflection

Joshua 11 reminds me that:

- No battle is too big for God. If He has been faithful before, He will be faithful again.
- God's strategies are always better than mine. Trusting Him means surrendering my own ways.
- Victory requires persistence. Some battles take time, but I must keep moving forward.
- Partial obedience leads to future struggles. I must fully surrender every area of my life to God.

Lord, help me to trust You in every battle, no matter how overwhelming it seems. Teach me to rely on Your wisdom, not my own strength. Give me perseverance when victory feels slow, and help me to fully surrender every area of my life to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.