



Joshua 11:1-15

We Won't Win the World Using the World's Weapons

NKJ Joshua 11:1 And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph,

2 and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west,

3 to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

4 So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

5 And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6 But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them.

8 And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining.

9 So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

10 Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.

11 And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire.

12 So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

13 But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned.

14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing.

15 As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

In these verses we see the action shifting from the south of Canaan, to the North. The verses detail the conquest of the area that we know in the New Testament as Galilee, specifically the area around the sea of Galilee, so in essence the majority of the fighting in these verses takes place in the area that Jesus would grow up in and have his ministry over 1400 years later.

The Southern Confederation of Canaanite kings has been destroyed, and their cities and strongholds captured. So Jabin king of Hazor determines that he will put together an even mightier confederation of Northern Kingdoms to oppose Israel, and the text labors to tell us that the combined armies of these nations were gigantic, beyond even counting, so he uses the metaphor “*as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude.*” Plus he points out ominously, they had something that the children of Israel had none of, horses and chariots. These were the “Tanks” of their day, and all Israel has in essence is light infantry. If the bookmakers were placing odds on the outcome of the conflict, they certainly wouldn’t have been giving the advantage to Israel.

The very size of their army might have been enough to cause a lesser commander to run away in fear, but not Joshua. Now why is that? Well the Canaanites trust what they can see, they put their trust in chariots and horses, and the size of their army. But Joshua’s perspective is entirely different. He has seen the mightiest army in the world, that of Egypt, with all of its chariots and horses, crushed by two gigantic walls of water. He has seen the walls mighty Jericho come down in a moment, he has seen the sun standing still in the sky and huge hailstones wiping out the armies of those Southern Confederation. Joshua, has seen the power of God, and knows that if God is with him, the Canaanites could assemble every chariot and horse in all of the ancient world, and it would be of no avail in the end. So his confidence is not in Chariots and Horses, it is in God:

Psalm 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

7 The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.

8 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.

9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.

10 All nations surrounded me, But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

11 They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

12 They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

So when the Lord said to him, “*Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.*” He believes the word of the Lord, and he acts.

As with the southern confederation, as soon as he has the assurance of the Lord he moves and he strikes the Canaanites while they are still at their assembly area in Merom. That was important.

Now for those of you who know about warfare, ***what do you need to successfully use calvary, things like Chariots? You need open flat spaces to maneuver successfully.*** But Joshua attacks at Merom, which is over 4000 ft. above sea level in the heights, a place where the benefit of chariots and horses is effectively negated. And once again, numbers become meaningless, they are defeated, chased, totally destroyed and their cities are again taken.

Now the key verse in this section and the one that I will be applying is verse 15:

15 As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

Now why is Joshua commended, what thing that he was commanded to do, might another leader who was less scrupulous about following the commandments of God not done?

Hamstrung the Horses and burned the chariots

The temptation would be to fire back -

“No God, you don’t understand. We can take those chariots and horses and we can use them against the Canaanites we *need* them to finish the conquest!”

But you see in doing that, he would have switched to the worldview of the Canaanites. Trusting in horses, and chariots, and above all their own wisdom. Joshua, instead of doing what the Lord commanded would have been doing what was right in his own eyes.

The refrain of Judges - everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Why was Joshua commended, because he was so smart? No he was commended because he had the essential quality of a good servant, “He obeyed the commands of God” That is what makes a good servant.

Lets apply that idea, because it is critically important. Almost all of our troubles people encounter stem from NOT following the commandments of the Lord.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Deut. 5:29 'Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

John 14: 15 " If you love Me, keep My commandments.

NKJ 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

You too are called to be engaged in warfare

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Your main way of fighting the good fight is simply going to be keeping the Lord’s commandments

1 Tim. 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Jer. 6:16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Gene Edward Veith - "***Liberal conservatives***" Todd Wilken, the Lutheran talk-show host, has identified another kind of liberal conservative. In an article titled "Bible-believing Liberals" in *Issues, Etc. Journal*, he observes that many Christians are conservative politically, economically, culturally, and in every other way except one: They are liberal/progressives when it comes to church.

"While they believe that the culture needs to return to its historic traditions, they think the church needs to abandon hers," Mr. Wilken writes. "While they believe men and women have defined roles in marriage and family, they don't see why a woman can't replace a man in the pulpit. . . . They want the Ten Commandments in the public square, but are unconcerned when those commandments are replaced with 'principles for living' from the pulpit. To the Bible-believing liberal, ceremonies of a presidential inauguration are meaningful and inspiring, but the Sunday morning liturgy is boring. For the Bible-believing liberal, the differences between political parties are serious, but the differences between Christian denominations are petty. While they insist on a strict literal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, they play fast and loose with the Bible and its theology, even while maintaining its inerrancy and inspiration. These are the Bible-believing liberals."

In other words, many Christians reject the dogmas of progressivism—the old is bad, what's new is good, we should change along with the cultural trends—in the culture wars, while embracing them in church.

"By definition, Bible-believing liberals consider themselves conservative," Mr. Wilken told *WORLD*. "They are completely unaware that they have started thinking and speaking like old-line liberals. When it is pointed out to them, they are incredulous and usually offended. They fail to see that, just like the old-line liberals, they have allowed the culture to call the shots in their church's teaching and practice. Most evangelicals consider themselves loyal footsoldiers in the culture war. However, while they have fought the culture's influence in society, they have surrendered to it in their churches."

Just as the Lord knows what would have happened to Joshua

Deut 17: 15 "you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

16 "But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'

So he knows what will happen to us if we adopt their methods...