

**JOSHUA 11**  
**TRUST NO ONE?**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Joshua chapter 11 as we continue our study through this amazing book on victorious Christian living.

As we have seen so far in our study of Joshua, chapters 1 through 5 dealt with how we are to enter the land of Canaan, the Promise Land or that Spirit-filled life.

Then, in Joshua chapters 6 through 21 the focus is the conquest of the land or how to win these battles.

And that is where we are right now, the children of Israel are in the Promise Land and they are defeating the enemies and taking possession of the land of Canaan, just as God had promised them!

And in this conquest of Canaan, we have seen that Israel has defeated their enemies in the central part of the land, Jericho and Ai.

Then, once that wedge was driven between the north and the south, they defeated Adoni-Zedek and the surrounding armies that federated with him in the southern part of the land.

Now, as we move into chapter 11 of Joshua, we will see the northern conquest of the land that God promised to the children of Israel.

Now, let me ask you this. If this is a picture of the Spirit-filled life, which I believe it is, then why do we need all these strategies and all this organization? Can't we go with the flow and see what God is going to do?

First of all, just going with the flow will lead to disaster. You have to have direction, you have to know where you are going, you have to know what you are doing, or you will be in trouble. Hopefully that just makes sense to you!

But, on the other end of the spectrum, if our strategies and organization has become our master, then you are in trouble. And that is truly the key here, **OUR** organization, **OUR** strategies! We can come up with all kinds of things to do in the various battles that we are facing, but we are not to seek our own direction, our own way, but we are to **TRUST** in the Lord and be guided by Him!

And that is so important for us to understand. That we seek our direction from the Lord, and we follow His strategy and His organization in the situations we are facing, the battles we are facing.

We want the victory but are we willing to **TRUST** in the Lord and follow Him? Our victory is only found in Him.

I have called this study, **TRUST NO ONE?** And I put a question mark at the end of that. Because it is an important question, especially in the days we are living in. Who can we trust?

Think about it for a minute. With all the fake news and garbage that we see from the media, many have lost their trust in the news and what they are reporting, they just don't trust them.

And we can go to politics and see that with all the promises they make, once they get into office, they seem to forget. We see them fighting for a political party instead of for the people. And thus, many in this nation just don't trust politicians.

And please understand, I am not trying to pick on anyone, but I am just stating the facts. It doesn't mean that everyone in the news or in the government you can't trust, but the numbers are growing, and people are becoming aware of the fact that you just can't trust people.

We can look at salespeople, or telemarketers or this group or that group, and we are seeing less and less people trusting what they are saying or what they are trying to sell.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. And this report is from September 1, 2008 and it deals with this idea of American's and how they are becoming less trustful.

Listen to what they said, and keep in mind, this was almost 11 years ago. We are told, "Trust no one."

That was the slogan of the TV series *The X-Files*, which followed two FBI agents in their quest to uncover "the truth" about a government conspiracy. Perhaps the most defining series of the 1990s, *The X-Files* touched a cultural nerve and captured a mood of growing distrust in America.

In the six years since the series ended, however, our trust in each other has declined even further, despite a brief rebound after September 11. The mood of cynicism and distrust captured by *The X-Files* in the '90s seems just as relevant today—indeed, a new *X-Files* movie was released this past summer. The decline or absence of trust also figures prominently in more recent hit TV series like *Mad Men*, *Survivor*, and *The Sopranos*.

In fact, “trust no one” has essentially served as Americans’ motto over the last two generations. For 40 years - the years of Vietnam, Watergate, junk bonds, Monica Lewinsky, Enron, the Catholic Church sex scandals, and the Iraq war - our trust in each other has been dropping steadily, while trust in many institutions has been seriously shaken in response to scandals.

This trend is documented in a variety of national surveys. The General Social Survey, a periodic assessment of Americans’ moods and values, shows a 10-point decline from 1976 to 2006 in the number of Americans who believe other people can generally be trusted.

The General Social Survey also shows declines in trust in our institutions, although these declines are often closely linked to specific events. From the 1970s to today, trust has declined in the press (24 to 11 percent), education (36 to 28 percent), banks (35 percent to 31 percent), corporations (26 to 17 percent), and even organized religion (35 to 25 percent).

And Gallup’s annual Governance survey shows that trust in the government is even lower today than it was during the Watergate era, when the Nixon administration had been caught engaging in criminal acts. It’s no wonder popular culture is so preoccupied with questions of trust.

But research on trust isn’t all doom and gloom; it also offers reason for hope. A growing body of research hints that humans are hardwired to trust. Indeed, a closer examination of surveys shows that trust is resilient: Major events can stoke our trust in institutions, just as other events can inhibit it. The science of trust suggests that humans want to trust, even need to trust, but they won’t trust blindly or foolishly. They need solid evidence that their trust is warranted. Using this research as a guide, we can begin to understand why trust has been declining, and how we might rebuild it. . . .

In the end, it is our natural drive to trust that offers our best hope of rebuilding trust in America. That drive was summed up by the tagline for a recent summer film: “I want to believe.” Which film? The new X-Files movie. As the switch suggests, even in the worst of times, lurking under our suspicious gaze lies a need to trust in each other.

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And let’s face it, the more people take advantage of you, the more they lie to you, the harder it becomes to trust people.

And when it comes to God, I think people lose trust in God because they are not told the truth about God and they don’t know His Word!

That is going to be the focus of our study this morning, trusting in God, the One who not only created us but loved us so much He saved us from our sins. Thus, we can trust in Him in all we are going through, for all the battles we are facing, and we will face in this life!

I have broken these verses here in Joshua chapter 11, down into five parts and they are:

***THE ENEMY ATTACKS – JOSHUA 11:1-5***

***THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD – JOSHUA 11:6***

***THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLE – JOSHUA 11:7-14***

***PASS IT ON – JOSHUA 11:15***

***WALK IN HIS WAYS – JOSHUA 11:16-23***

With that as our background, let’s begin reading in Joshua chapter 11, beginning in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

**JOSHUA 11****VERSES 1-5**

The first point we are going to be looking at here in Joshua chapter 11 is this, ***THE ENEMY ATTACKS.***

But why is the enemy coming against the children of Israel?

Because word had spread that God was fighting for them and they were attacking city after city and gaining victory after victory!

What I find interesting is that Joshua and the children of Israel did not have to get this news in the papers or on the radio or on television or any other social media.

What they did was live for the Lord and in that, word spread what God was doing. They were living what they said they believed, and people took notice.

And that should be true in our own lives. We need to live for the Lord and let people see that our faith is real.

Today we think if we have the right program, do this, do that, then people will take notice.

Let me say this. If you are not living what you say you believe, if you are not walking by faith, a faith that people can see, then they won't take notice, they won't be afraid that what you believe will affect their lives.

But here we see that Jabin, the King of Hazor, gets the news on what Joshua and the children of Israel accomplished in the Southern and Central parts of Canaan.

And what he does is interesting to me. He knew he couldn't fight the children of Israel on his own and get a victory, so he forms an alliance with the surrounding nations to make a surprise attack on Joshua and the children of Israel.

Hazor was located about 10 miles northwest of the Sea of Galilee, called the Sea of Chinneroth, as we see here in Joshua.

And this alliance of nations that were federated together rendezvoused a few miles northwest of the sea of Galilee, in a plain near the waters of Merom, which was just a small lake and is not even around today.

And don't think that this army was small and insignificant, for it wasn't.

Josephus, a Jewish historian of the first century A. D., speculated that this northern confederacy included some 300,000 infantry soldiers, 10,000 cavalry troops and 20,000 chariots.

Understand that these chariots were like our modern-day tanks, and to own one put you in power.

These chariots had a platform for a driver; a javelin thrower, an archer, and the wheels on the chariot had blades on them so that when you got too close, your legs would be cut in two. Thus, their plan was to sweep down the Jordan valley and attack Joshua and the children of Israel at Gilgal.

This was a huge challenge that was before Joshua and the children of Israel. The size of the enemy, as we are told that this army had, “**. . . as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude . . .**” Joshua 11:4.

And, like I have said, they had weapons of war, “**. . . very many horses and chariots.**” Joshua 11:4.

And here is something that we need to take to heart. We all want to grow in the Lord, mature in the faith, but we don't want our faith to be stretched.

But that is how our faith grows!

Think about a muscle, it grows as more pressure is exerted upon it. And when it reaches a point, then more pressure is exerted so that it can grow more.

That is how faith works!

God stretches our faith to help us to grow, to mature in the faith.

That is what He is doing here with the children of Israel. You see, each challenge that was before them would stretch them.

We went from Jericho to Ai and then the southern battles and now, here with this huge army with many weapons.

And haven't you seen that in your own life? I bet you have.

The challenges that we face seem to increase as we walk with the Lord and each time the Lord is stretching our faith, getting us to trust in Him more and more!

And these battles we are facing today or have faced are just a springboard for what we will face in our walk with the Lord down the road!

Now this seems overwhelming, what are they going to do? ***THE ENEMY ATTACKS*** – but what about them, what is going to happen to them? And we can put our lives in this same picture. What are we going to do? Let's read on and see what happens next.

VERSE 6

This next point is simple, ***THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LORD!***

Pretty simple, one verse and yet, why does it have to be complicated? It doesn't. God is God and His plans are perfect and that is the key, ***HIS PLANS!***

Now, make no mistake about it, this attack against the children of Israel was on a much larger scale than they have faced before.

Now let me ask you this. Why does the Lord tell Joshua and the children of Israel, "... ***Do not be afraid of them ...***"? (Joshua 11:6)

Because Joshua and the children of Israel were afraid of this huge army that was coming against them.

I am so thankful that the Lord doesn't just say, "***Suck it up!***" or "***Put on some big boy pants!***"

No, the Lord tells them not to be afraid of this enemy and then He tells them why they should not be afraid, "... for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel..." (Joshua 11:6)

We see here that God is encouraging them that the enemy may have a huge number of soldiers, they may have great weapons of war, but they don't have the Lord and thus, God will give the children of Israel this victory!

I like that because I may not be strong, I may be few in number in the battles I face, I may not have great weapons for war from a physical standpoint, but I have the Lord and the armor of God and there is nothing else that I need!

And yet, how often we look to other things to deliver us from the battles that we are facing.

Notice what the Lord instructs them to do, “**... You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.**” (Joshua 11:6)

Why would God tell the children of Israel to do that? It seems cruel and a waste!

First of all, when we are told that they were to hamstring their horses it meant that the horses were crippled by cutting their leg tendons, their Achilles tendon, which would make them unfit for military use.

God also told them to burn their chariots with fire, crazy. That would be a great spoil of victory and help them in future victories.

Why would God want them to do these things?

Because God did not want them to trust in their weapons of war, in horses for battle, but in Him.

We see this played out in Psalm 33:16-17 as we are told, “**No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.**”

And the Psalmist goes on to say where our hope should rest, “**Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in You.**” Psalm 33:18-22.

Please understand that there was nothing evil with these horses. There was nothing wrong with the chariots.

The issue was not in these military weapons but where their focus would be if they used them.

And make no mistake about it, it is easy to take our eyes off the Lord when we have other things that we can put our trust in. Be careful, put your trust in the Lord and be guided by Him.

And, as these other nations will soon find out, that will not help them when they are fighting against the Lord!

So what we see here are *THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LORD* and yet, even in those instructions there is not victory.

And thus, it brings us to our next point, *THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLE*, for in their obedience to what the Lord told them, He would give them this victory!

#### VERSES 7-14

Did you notice that it didn't say, "*Joshua and the children of Israel sat back in their cushy chair waiting for God to defeat the enemy!*"

That is not what we see here!

God told them that He would give them the victory and then they had to walk by faith, they entered the battle and they defeated the enemy, just as God promised them.

Yes, there were *THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD* but then, out of those instructions we see *THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLE* to those instructions!

And in this victory, we see Joshua and the children of Israel surprise this army, they attacked them and defeated them.

And Joshua completed the work; "**they attacked them until they left none remaining.**"

And here is another important point. Joshua and the children of Israel were tired. They had to make this five-day journey from Gilgal to Merom and then they had to do battle against the enemy.

But even though they were tired, they went to battle, and they not only went to battle, but they finished the work that God called them to do. They finished what they started as they were obedient to the Lord!

Again, that is an important lesson for us to learn.

God has called us to do something and we are obedient, we do the work, but then something happens. We get tired, we get discouraged, things are not going the way we planned, and we drop out, we don't finish what we started.

And this is speaking of faithfulness, something that is so important in our lives. One writer put it like this in regard to faithfulness. He wrote,

Without faithfulness to God there can be no Christian life. Christianity is based first on faith that God is, and then that through Christ Jesus we can be forgiven and are saved. Our faithfulness is a commitment to adhere to the One God who is true and supreme and to keep His commandments.

In fact, the first two of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), deal directly with our being faithful to God. "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God . . ."

These are the words given directly from God to Moses for all people, for all time.

Since God assumes a covenant relationship with His people, He is declaring that He will not tolerate unfaithfulness and competition with anything else. An idol can be in the form of anything that you might place in a higher priority over God. This includes false images of worship or placing anything in our lives that has preeminence over God.

To some, perhaps the most beneficial aspect of faithfulness to God would include the fact that the faithful will not suffer God's judgment. Until our judgment day, there are many other benefits while we are here on earth.

***Psalm 37:28 - "For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones."***

***Proverbs 3:12 - "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring your prosperity."***

***Proverbs 16:6-7 - "Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him."***

***Proverbs 28:20a - "A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished."***

***Revelation 2:10 - (NKJV) "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested and will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."***

The most significant element in our Christian life is faithfulness to God. In the days we now live in, we are unsure of what will happen next across the globe. There are wars, famines, economic collapse, and many natural disasters. Being faithful to God gives us great peace and assurance that we will be brought through by His promises of blessings and the reward of eternal life in Heaven.

Our faithful allegiance to Almighty God is the only thing that we can really count on; He is our hope in a fallen world. His provision of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is the greatest benefit of all if we are faithful believers.

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God, in His Word, has told us how we are to walk, what we are to do, how we are to respond in the various situations that we find ourselves in.

That really is not the issue. The issue is this. Are we willing to not only listen but to obey, to be faithful to what God is calling us to do? We need to be faithful; we need to be obedient to the Lord!

Look at Joshua and the children of Israel, they heard the Words of God and then they obeyed the Words of God!

And we see that they struck Hazor and burned this city!

Now, why did they strike Hazor, burning this city and they left these other cities alone, only wiping out the inhabitants but not burning it to the ground?

Because Hazor was the capitol of Northern Canaan and this city occupied some 200 acres of land. It was also strategically located as several branches of the Ancient Highway branched from this city.

This Highway lead from Egypt to Syria and on to Assyria and Babylon, which being located on these trade routes made it a wealthy city.

Thus, it would cause these other nations to lose heart, give up in this battle because this mighty city was destroyed by Israel and thus, they would be no match for them.

Interestingly enough, archaeologists seem to confirm the fact that this city, Hazor was burned with fire because they have found an ash layer in their excavations that corresponds to this period of time!

So, as we have seen in these verses here in Joshua 11:7-14, the secret to Joshua's success and ours is simple.

God wants us to be obedient to Him, that is where the blessings are found.

If we refuse, then there is the loss of those blessings and we put ourselves in danger.

Remember what happened at Ai and how the children of Israel were defeated because of sin in the camp! Because they were not obedient to the Lord! Because they did not seek direction from the Lord!

Yes, we need ***THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD*** that we get from the Word of God.

But it does not end there.

There must also be ***THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLE***, or we must then walk according to what the Lord has told us!

### VERSE 15

I know, you are probably wondering where I am going to go with this verse, but it really is not that complicated. The idea here is, ***PASS IT ON!*** And, of course, I am speaking of the Word of God!

Notice the transmission first of all. The Word of God went from the Lord to Moses and then Moses passed it on to Joshua who then, obviously, even though we don't read that here in this verse, Joshua passed it on to the people!

These were not the words of Moses, it was not what Moses thought that the Lord said, but it was the Word of the Lord that Moses took to heart!

How do we know that Moses took God's Word to heart?

Simple, Moses was obedient to the Words of God. I did not say he was a perfect man, there are none. But Moses served the Lord and followed the Lord all the days of his life.

And what was important to Moses, he passed on to Joshua.

And it was not a book that Moses passed on to Joshua, like ***GREEN EGGS AND BOLOGNA!*** Of course, it could not be ***GREEN EGGS AND HAM***, they were Jewish!

And yet, we see that a lot today. The passing on of this book, this teacher, this and that, but what about God's Word?

We should be passing it on to our children, our grandchildren, our friends and family!

I think this is done like this, and it is two-fold you might say.

First of all, are you living what you say you believe? Your children, your grandchildren, your family and friends are watching how you live out your faith. They have heard you talk about Jesus, but can you live for Him?

Listen to what Paul said of the believers in Thessalonica and how their lives changed when they were saved and their lives not only changed for a day or week or month, but they radically changed, they were living what they said they believed and people took notice!

In I Thessalonians 1:6-10 we are told, **“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”**

In other words, they lived out their faith so much that believers were encouraged when they saw them.

Not only were believers encouraged, but the unsaved family, friends, saw this change in them and it affected their lives as well.

It does not mean that they believed when they saw their changed lives, but they did see it and it was an opportunity for them to turn to the living God from the idols they were serving!

Paul put it like this in I Corinthians 6:9-11, **“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”**

In other words, you once were living that immoral lifestyle apart from Jesus. But, when you came to saving faith, that all changed. That is how you once lived but no longer because you have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. You were sanctified or set apart by God and you were justified, or your sins were paid and there is no longer any record of them. Thus, live like you are a child of the King, because you are!

So we are to live out our faith and then we are to share our faith with Words. We are to share the Gospel; we are to share the Word of God!

Paul said in Romans 10:17, **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

The power of God’s Word upon our lives and those around us is incredible. One writer, Dr. Phillip Paschal, put it like this,

*“Out of all the words known to man, there is nothing more powerful than the Word of God. Philosophy, with its unending questions, fails in its comparison to the Word of God. Science, with its concepts and fundamental beliefs, does not measure up to the Word of God. If you take all the prominent speakers from all ages, and compare what they have said to what God has said, their words will be as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. There has never been an individual or group; who’s words, carry more authority than God’s. For it was by His Word that the worlds came into existence. Yes, my brothers and my sisters, His Word has the power to change lives, lift up bowed down heads, soothe us in our moments of misery. His Word instructs us how to live righteous, and His Word tells us if we are living unrighteous. There are no words, spoken or written that have the same effect as the Power of God’s Word.”*

How important that is for us to understand. Yes, we are to live out our faith, people are to see that our faith is real, but we are also to share the Word of God because God's Word is living, and it is powerful, and it can and will change lives. It changed ours!

And here's the thing. If you don't *PASS IT ON*, then future generations will move away from what you say you believe, they will not believe it and that is what we see so much in our country today.

God was not important; thus, He was placed on the back burner you might say, forgotten about because other things were too important. We have sports, theater, we have music, we have this, we have that, and God is in there, but you know how it goes, way in the back.

And that attitude is caught by our children and grandchildren.

Let them see that God is real in your life because you are living what you say you believe, and you are passing on the Word of God to them because it is a natural part of your life.

Look at the example of Timothy's mother and grandmother. Paul picks up on this in his letter to Timothy, as he tells us that his heart is full of joy, "**when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.**" II Timothy 1:5.

Notice how this faith was passed on. First it was his grandmother Lois who got saved. Then it was his mother Eunice. And finally, it was Timothy, grandson of Lois and son of Eunice, who got saved.

It is what the children of Israel were told as well as we read in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”**

These verses are also known as the *SHEMA*, which means to *“hear.”* And they would say these verses, this prayer in the morning and in the evening, they would teach it to their children; it was an important part of their lives!

And notice, this love that we have for God first begins in our hearts and as God’s Word fills our hearts it will overflow outward, changing us and touching the lives of others.

And this was not just to be for them, they were to teach it to their children, not only by teaching them the Word of God, but living it! By putting into practice what they say they believe! Your children are watching you and thus, with your victories and your failures, teach them lessons that God is showing you. Let them see that your faith is real!

Thus, we are to *PASS IT ON* or let our children, our grandchildren, our friends, our family know of our God by living what we say we believe and speaking forth the Word of God!

That brings us to our last point beginning in verse 16 of Joshua chapter 11, where we are told.

VERSES 16-23

The focus here is that we are to ***WALK IN HIS WAYS***, or we are to follow the Lord as He is leading us!

And in these verses we have a summary of the land that Joshua and the children of Israel conquered. And when you read in verse 20 that that Lord hardened their hearts so that He might wipe them out, to destroy them, that may lead you to the wrong conclusion.

First of all, God gave them over 400 years to repent and they did not.

Secondly, God was only giving them what they wanted, a life apart from Him, doing their own thing and the end result of that is judgment. God does the same today.

If there was one person who came to the Lord, then God would have spared their life. We see that with the conquest of Jericho. Rahab and her family came to saving faith, they were spared while the rest of the city, the people, were destroyed!

We see this played out for us as Paul tells us in Romans 1:24-28, **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”**

And as you look at our nation, as you look at this world, you can see this being played out. They turned from God and God gave them over to do those things that were in their heart, and they are perverse, they are evil.

And it is hard to blame God for this when this is what they wanted. And here is the thing. If you want that lifestyle, don't blame God when His judgment comes upon your life. God is good, He is righteous and there is no darkness in Him at all!

That is what we are seeing here with the Canaanites, and God deals with our hearts the same way. His grace will either harden the heart or soften it, but the choice is ours in what it will do!

Also, in Joshua 11:21-22 we see these Anakim or giants. They are the same people that terrified the children of Israel some 40 years earlier and because of that they refused to enter the land at that time.

Now, what was a stumbling block for them, God gives the children of Israel victory over them just as He had told them that He would!

The only Anakim to survive were the ones who lived in the coastal cities that were occupied by the Philistines, the cities of Gaza, Gath and Ashdod.

The key, once again, is that they were *WALKING IN HIS WAYS*, they were following the Lord in what they were doing!

And listen again to what we are told in Joshua 11:23, **“So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.”**

What we see here is that the Canaanite kings have been destroyed within the borders of Israel but there were still pockets of resistance that the various tribes would have to destroy as the land was allotted to them.

There were those small towns and villages that needed to be dealt with.

It is as Redpath tells us, “Much territory was yet to be possessed, but it was left to each tribe to possess what potentially it had received through the conquest of the whole people in which it had taken part. Each tribe was to apply individually the lessons it had learned in united war if it was to possess its inheritance. That the tribes failed to do so was not a reflection on the power of God, but on the failure to take for themselves what Joshua had given and allotted to each one of them.”

Now, how does that relate to us as Christians today?

Jesus has already defeated the enemy and conquered the land, but we must then take those steps of faith and possess that land and do battle against the enemy. In other words, we must ***WALK IN HIS WAYS!***

And folks, that battle will continue until we go and be with the Lord but one day, when His Kingdom is established on this earth, these battles will be over!

It is as Revelation 11:15 tells us, “**. . . ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’**”

We long for that day when righteousness will fill this land!

But until then, as Psalm 119:133 tells us, “**‘Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.’**”

If you want to have a walk that is worthy of the high calling by which you have been called, then ***WALK IN HIS WAYS!***

Now, this walk of faith is so important for us.

You see, as we will be seeing here in Joshua, they walked part way, they did what the Lord said most of the time, but in the end, when they did not walk accordingly, it cost them dearly!

That is so important for us to understand.

I remember when my kids were young, and I would cut the grass. They would get out their play lawnmower and follow right behind me, cutting the grass. They only got in trouble when they no longer followed me but started to go into the street or other areas that they were not supposed to go!

The same is true for us. God has given us the victory in every battle we face. All we must do is walk by faith, follow Him.

And we only get into trouble when we don't follow Him completely!

Maybe you heard what I said, but maybe you are not believing it or not totally believing that we must follow the Lord, walk in His ways all the time. If you are struggling with that, and even if you are not, maybe this illustration will help drive home the point. We are told,

A TV news camera crew was on assignment in southern Florida filming the widespread destruction of Hurricane Andrew.

In one scene, amid the devastation and debris stood one house on its foundation. The owner was cleaning up the yard when a reporter approached him.

“Sir, why is your house the only one still standing?” asked the reporter. “How did you manage to escape the severe damage of the hurricane?”

“I built this house myself,” the man replied. “I also built it according to the Florida state building code. When the code called for two-by-six roof trusses, I used two-by-six roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane. I did, and it did. I suppose no one else around here followed the code.”

When the sun is shining and the skies are blue, building our lives on something other than the guidelines in God’s Word can be tempting. But there’s only one way to be ready for a storm.

- David R. Culver

Here’s the thing. As Dwight L. Moody said, “If I walk with the world, I can’t walk with God.”

That is just the reality. Who are you following? Henry Ford made this interesting point, “Those who walk with God, always reach their destination.” How true!

And Jack Hyles said, “God’s mighty power comes when God’s people learn to walk with God.”

May we ***WALK IN HIS WAYS!***

Make no mistake about it,

***THE ENEMY ATTACKS!***

And he will do so until we go to be with the Lord!

But the wonderful thing is, we have,

***THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD!***

The Lord has told us what to do, what not to do, how to obtain the victory in these battles.

And our responsibility to this,

***THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLE!***

We must obey what the Lord is telling us!

And the wonderful thing here is that this is not just for us, we are to,

***PASS IT ON!***

We are to tell our children, our grandchildren, our family and friends of the Lord.

And thus, we are to,

***WALK IN HIS WAYS!***

And I will close with this, from Micah 6:8, "**He has shown you, O man, what is good;**

**And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk**

**humbly with your God?**" May we walk accordingly!