

## 012019 Growth Group Study

### Obediently Eliminating Idolatry & Evil

Joshua 10:28-11:23



**Background:** The Israelites remain on the move in this text. Under the leadership of Joshua and his obedience to the commands he received, the Israelites will complete the conquest of the Promised Land that had been defiled by the Canaanites for centuries. It's a dark story, but, as is always the case with the God of the Bible, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. This Sunday, we will follow the text down the dark tunnel, but we will also remember the Light at the end of the tunnel, the Light that calls us into a life of obedience of loving God and others!

#### 1. Details around most recent sermon

- a. **Date:** 01/20/19
- b. **Series:** Joshua
- c. **Title:** Obediently Eliminating Idolatry & Evil
- d. **Text:** Joshua 10:28-11:23
- e. **Preacher:** Ryan Hinn
- f. **Sermon Text (ESV)**

*28 As for Makkedah, Joshua captured it on that day and struck it, and its king, with the edge of the sword. He devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. And he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho.*

*29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah. 30 And the LORD gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel. And he struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it; he left none remaining in it. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.*

*31 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and laid siege to it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he captured it on the second day and struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as he had done to Libnah.*

*33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish. And Joshua struck him and his people, until he left none remaining.*

*34 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon. And they laid siege to it and fought against it. 35 And they captured it on that day,*

*and struck it with the edge of the sword. And he devoted every person in it to destruction that day, as he had done to Lachish.*

*36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron. And they fought against it 37 and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it. He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.*

*38 Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back to Debir and fought against it 39 and he captured it with its king and all its towns. And they struck them with the edge of the sword and devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. Just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.*

*40 So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the LORD God of Israel commanded. 41 And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon. 42 And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.*

*11:1 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.*

*6 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. 8 And the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. And they struck them until he left none remaining. 9 And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.*

*10 And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. 11 And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire. 12 And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the*

*edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. 13 But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. 14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. 15 Just 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.*

*16 So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland 17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death. 18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19 There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle. 20 For it was the LORD's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.*

*21 And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.*

## **2. Discussion Questions**

### **a. Preparation**

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
2. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
3. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

### **b. Sermon questions (Pick 3)**

1. **Trust:** Ryan said that knowing who we can or cannot trust is a big deal. Do you find yourself having trouble trusting others? Why or why not? How does that affect how you live your life?
2. **Trust:** As you look over the last week, what were the loudest voices speaking into your life (ie. yourself, culture, family members, God, etc)? Did you trust these loudest voices or not? Why or why not? Moving forward, how can you "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov 3:5)?

3. **Fear:** The most common exhortation in scripture is “do not fear.” In our text, the Israelites are being gripped by fear, so the Lord exhorts Joshua to not be afraid in 10:6. Where are you struggling with fear right now? Moving forward, what would it look like to trust God in the midst of this fear?
4. **Idolatry:** We are always on the verge of idolatry. John Calvin famously said that “our hearts are idol factories.” Where are the idols in your life? Some questions Ryan asked us to consider –
  - i. What keeps you up at night?
  - ii. What do you think about first thing in the morning?
  - iii. What consistently worries you?Take your answers to these questions into your prayers this week, and may your prayers lead you into humility.
5. **Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit continues to fight on our behalf today. How does this truth give you assurance today? How can this fact help you trust God this week?

**c. For Further Reflection**

1. If someone were to approach you and accuse God of being an ethnic cleanser, how would you answer?
2. Chapter 11 ends with the land at “rest.” Fear typically results in anxiety and worry which causes us to be restless. Jesus says that if we trust in him, he will “rest” us (Matt 11:29). How does this truth impact your daily life?