



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

JOSHUA

Week 3

Cities Whose Kings Were Defeated by Joshua



Counting Blessings

DAY 15

Joshua 11:16-12:24

Has there been a single, most important victory in your life? Did Jesus lead and help you during that process?

1. Think about verse 23: “Then the land had rest from war.” How do you think the Israelites felt at that point? How do you think the non-Israelite population felt at that point?

2. List the kings defeated by Moses, and compare them with the kings defeated by Joshua. Why do you think the long list of defeated kings was written down?

1. What enemies are you battling (perhaps addiction, weight, temper, temptation, relationship problems—or even religious legalism and judgmentalism)? Can you trust Jesus to defeat these enemies—doing for you what you can’t do by your own efforts?

2. Make a list of God’s blessings in your life. Consider reviewing it from time to time.

*One of the Bible’s most curious figures is **Og, king of Bashan** (12:4). He ruled over a kingdom described as a race of giants. Even their beds were truly king-size. According to Deuteronomy 3:11 King Og’s bed “was made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide.” Evidently his bed was so unique that it was placed on display after the Israelites conquered Bashan.*

OPENING
up to the Word

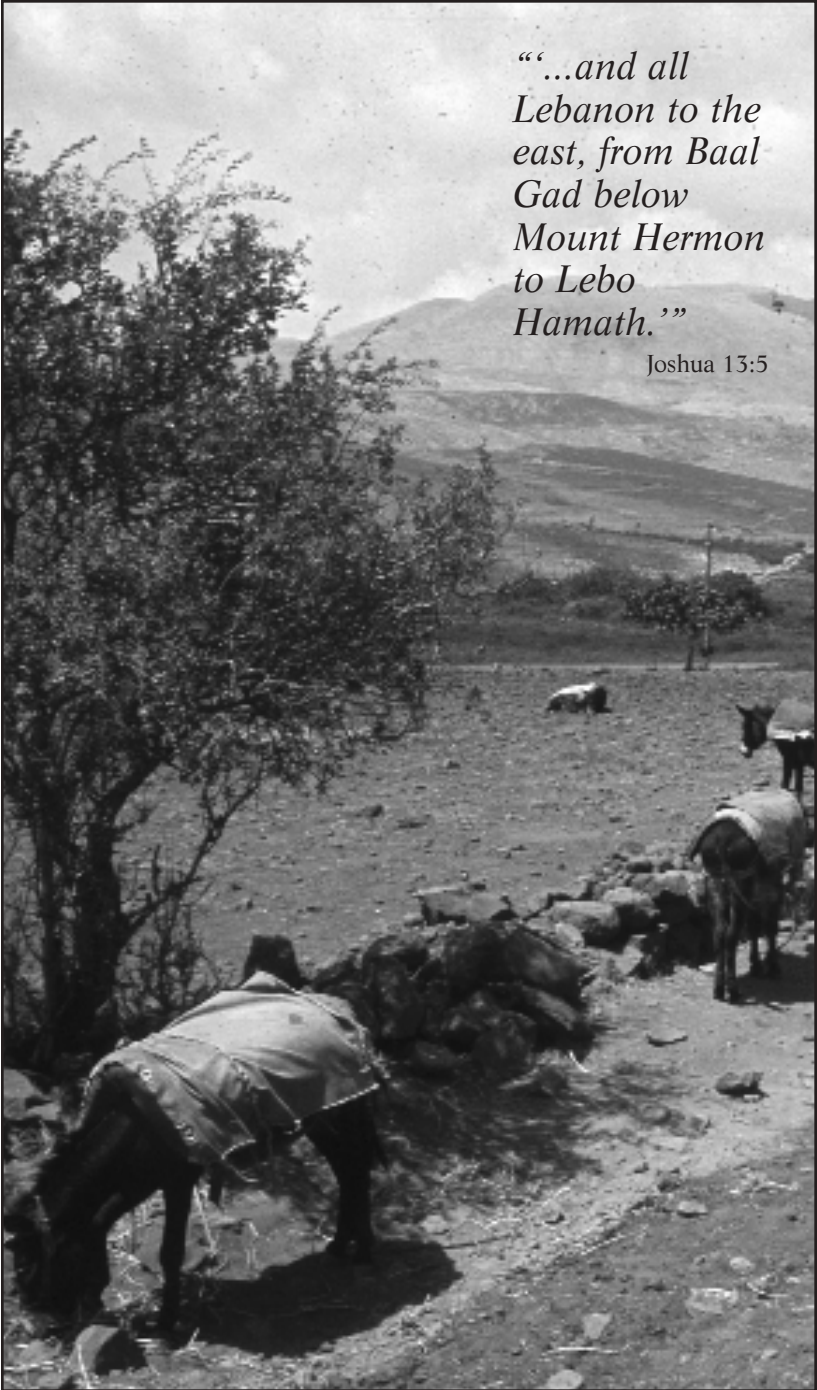
DIGGING
into the Word

LIVING
out the Word

WINDOW
on the Word

*“...and all
Lebanon to the
east, from Baal
Gad below
Mount Hermon
to Lebo
Hamath.”*

Joshua 13:5



Unfinished Business

DAY 16

Joshua 13:1-32

Are there times and places where you have left business unfinished? Do you intend to finish it?

1. How do you think Joshua felt when God reminded him he was “very old”?
2. This chapter stipulates, in two separate passages, that one tribe of Israel would not receive a physical inheritance. Could this tribe have served as a prototype of greater spiritual blessings—greater than real estate? This tribe was told (v. 33) that God was their inheritance. What does that mean? In what ways can God be considered an inheritance?

1. In what ways do you feel you have aged? Are you ready to retire or do you plan to keep on working as long as possible?
2. Have you “inherited” anything from God? How have you managed that inheritance? How might you pass on blessings you have received from God?
3. If you do have areas of unfinished business in your life, why not ask God to help you conclude some of these life chapters and start new ones?

*Included in the list of kings and tribal chieftains killed in battle is the non-Israelite prophet **Balaam** (v. 22). He was called on by King Balak of Moab when the king learned the Israelites were coming. King Balak asked this prophet to curse the invaders so his own army could defeat them (Nu 22–25). The Israelites didn’t forget the negative role he was asked to perform.*

OPENING
up to the Word

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Age Is No Barrier

Joshua 14:1-15

OPENING
up to the Word

Are there ways in which you let your age prevent you from doing something? This question applies to you whether you are young or old!

DIGGING
into the Word

1. This chapter begins (vs. 1-5) with the distribution of the land on the west side of Jordan. It indicates that the size of territory given was determined by the population of the tribe (Nu 26:53-56).

2. How old was Caleb? What descriptive word about Caleb is used twice in verses 8-9?

3. How does this chapter end?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Write a short spiritual biography of Caleb based on verses 6-13.

2. What qualities do you admire most about this man? Consider asking God to incorporate them into your life.

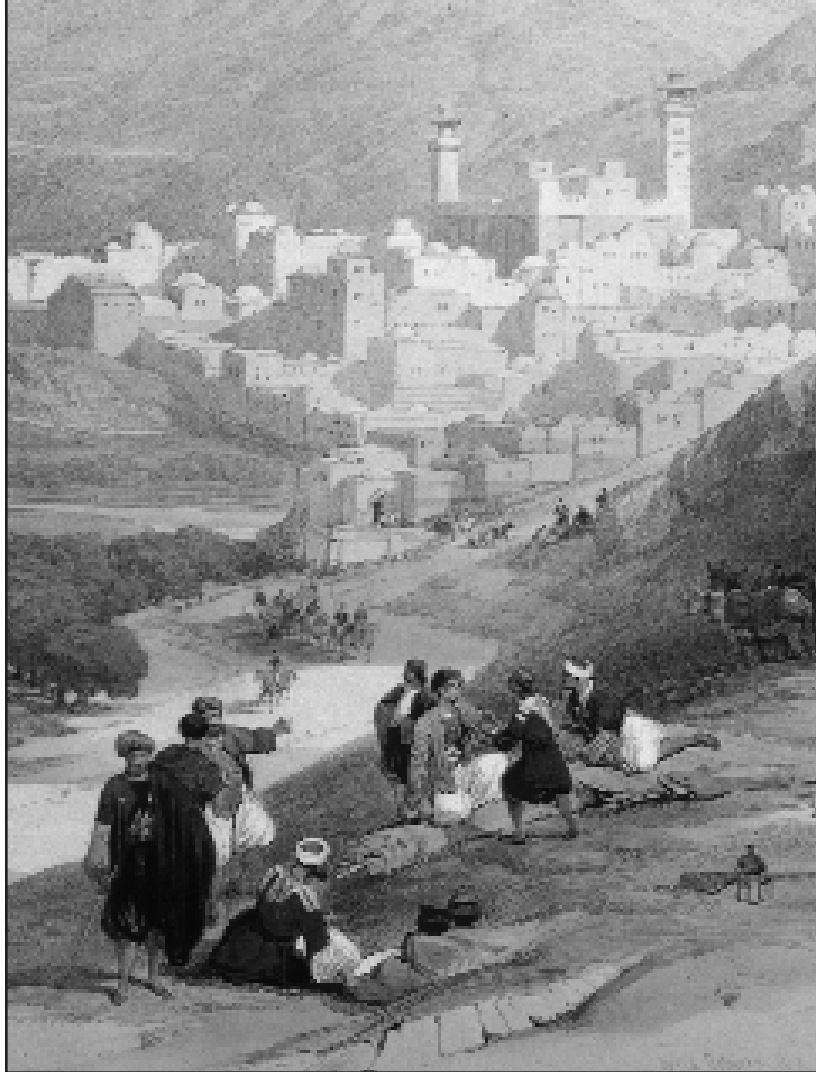
3. Caleb followed God “wholeheartedly” (vs. 8-9). Would you describe your faith and walk with God in the same way?

WINDOW
on the Word

Caleb was spared from the plague that took the lives of the unbelieving spies 45 years earlier (Nu 14:36-38). He was a man of consistent, deep faith. Even though the land he wanted was populated by people with massive military and defensive resources, Caleb did not flinch from the task. He continued to see things through the eyes of faith.

“So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.”

Joshua 14:14



Artwork by David Roberts

Asking Family For Help

Joshua 15:1-63

OPENING
up to the Word

What kind of relationship do you have with your parents? Can members of your family turn to each other for help?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Locate the sites mentioned in verses 1-12 on a Bible map for this historical period.
2. What incentive did Caleb offer for the capture of Kiriath? Who rose to the occasion to claim the prize?
3. What request did a daughter make of her father? How did he respond?
4. What group was the tribe of Judah unable to dislodge?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Caleb's method of finding a husband for his daughter, Ascah, is yet another Old Testament cultural practice we see through the eyes of a grace-based, Christ-centered perspective.
2. Othniel later became one of Israel's first judges. Do you think his marriage to the daughter of a great military leader, Caleb, helped him in his role?
3. Have you seen the careers of others thrive as a result of a marriage?

WINDOW
on the Word

*When Joshua died at the age of 110, Israel was left without a leader. God raised up a series of judges (Jdg 2:16) to fill the void and keep Israel on track. **Othniel** was the first of these judges. His great achievement was rescuing the Israelites from the oppressive King Cushan-rishathaim of Mesopotamia (Jdg 3).*

The Inheritance

DAY 19

Joshua 16:1-10

Do you know someone who received a sizable inheritance of either money or land or both? What effect did that have on that person? Did it alter his or her life dramatically?

1. What people group was not driven out as God specifically instructed (v. 10)?

2. What did the Israelites do with the remaining Canaanites? What does this say about the people of Israel?

1. Some of the lands were given because of promises made to Jacob centuries earlier. Have you benefited from the spiritual legacy of people in past generations?

2. Where did your ancestors come from? Have you ever been able to visit your ancestral home? If you did visit, what did you learn from the experience?

3. In our world, people are used, within a variety of cultures, as “forced labor” (v. 10). From a Christ-centered perspective, how can such practices be justified?

Ephraim was born in Egypt to Joseph and Asenath, the daughter of an Egyptian priest. He was later adopted by Jacob (Ge 48) and became the ancestor of one of the most powerful of the 12 tribes.

OPENING

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DIGGING

into the Word

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WINDOW

on the Word

“It’s Not Fair!”

Joshua 17:1-13

OPENING
up to the Word

While equal rights for women were unique in Old Testament times, consider that the new covenant in Christ allows women freedom in ways Christless religion does not (Ga 3:28; 1Pe 3:7)?

DIGGING
into the Word

What is the issue in verses 3-6? Who are the principal characters? What do they want?

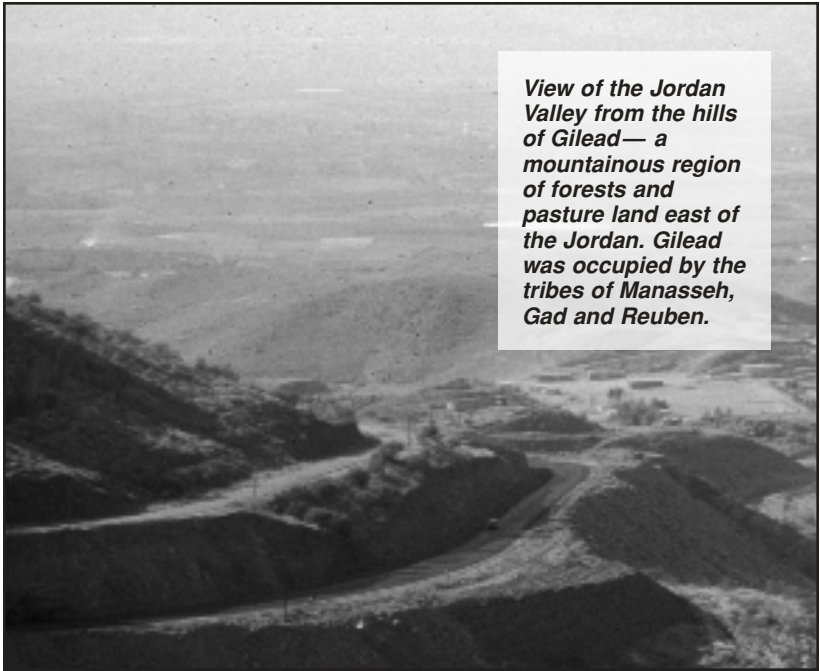
LIVING
out the Word

1. For the tribes of Israel and Judah, the promises of God were being fulfilled. How have some promises and blessings of God been fulfilled in your life?

2. What can you learn from the daughters of Zelophehad?

WINDOW
on the Word

***Zelophehad** died in the wilderness following the Exodus. His death created a problem for his five daughters. Because he had no male heir, the usual rule of inheritance would mean that his name would disappear from the tribe and his daughters would have no legal right to inherit his estate, including his share of the Promised Land. The women took their case to Moses (Nu 27:4), who ruled in the women’s favor. The one restriction placed on the five women was that they had to marry within the tribe. This would ensure that the land remained in possession of the tribe of Manasseh.*



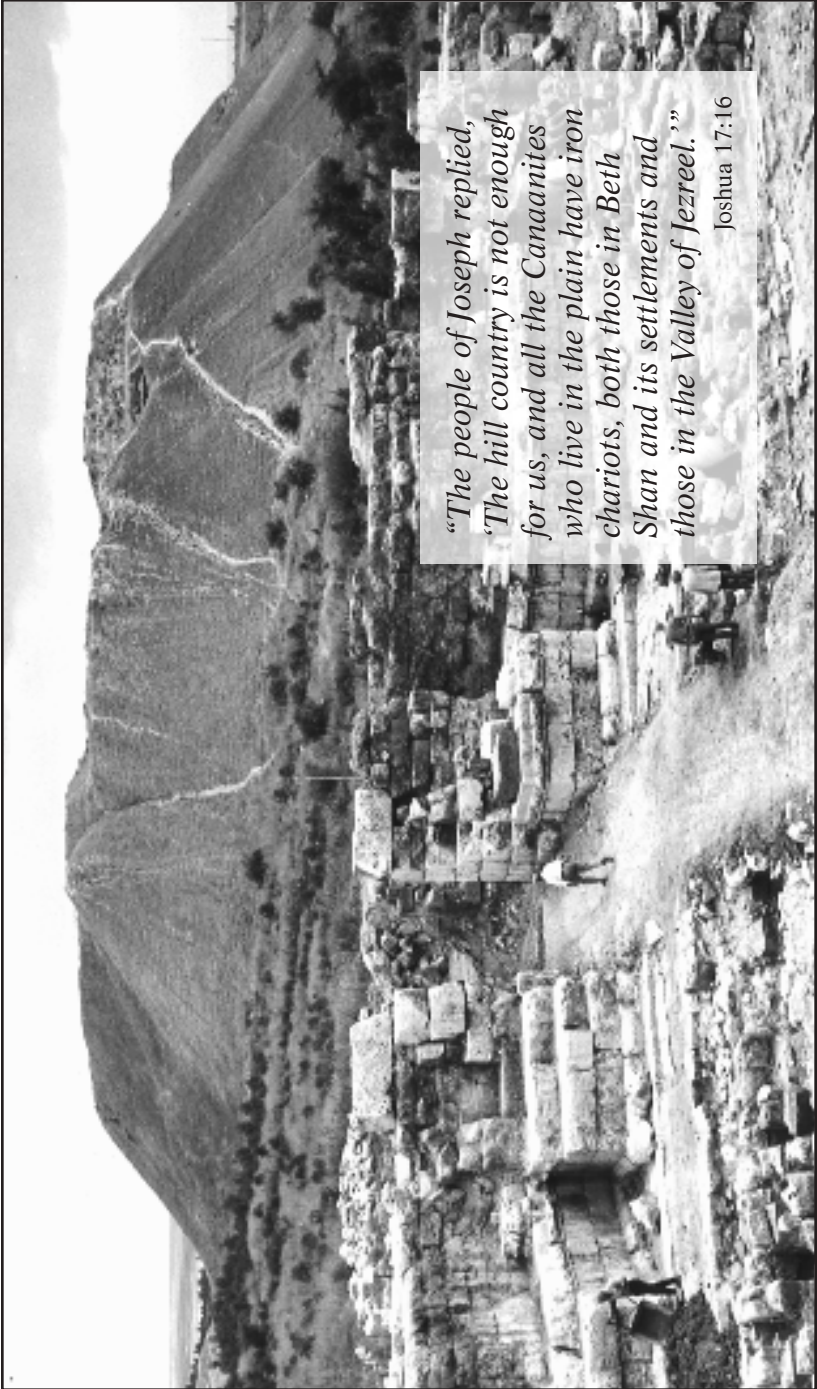
View of the Jordan Valley from the hills of Gilead— a mountainous region of forests and pasture land east of the Jordan. Gilead was occupied by the tribes of Manasseh, Gad and Reuben.

Photo by Sylvia Owen—PTM



Ruins of Shechem, in the territory of west Manasseh. First mentioned in scripture as a Canaanite city, (Ge 33:18), Shechem was situated between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim. The blessings and cursings of the law were recited here (Dt 27:12-13) and here Joshua gave his final address to the Israelites (Jos 24:1).

Photo by P. Termes



*“The people of Joseph replied,
“The hill country is not enough
for us, and all the Canaanites
who live in the plain have iron
chariots, both those in Beth
Shan and its settlements and
those in the Valley of Jezreel.””*

Joshua 17:16

Excavated ruins of Beth Shan—Photo by Ben Haim

Making the Most of It

DAY 21

Joshua 17:14-18

You might not have all the money you want, but you do have other resources. What are your spiritual resources? Are you fully using all of God's gifts and inheritances?

1. Who were the "people of Joseph" (see 16:4)? What is their concern?
2. To whom did they appeal? What was the first response to their appeal?
3. What did the "people of Joseph" identify as their second concern? What response did they receive?

1. If you feel something is not appropriate about your living conditions, is there anyone to whom you can appeal? Have you used the power of appeal recently?

2. Joseph's descendants asked for more land because they were so populous. Joshua told them to get to work and create more usable land by clearing out the forest in their territory. Is there an area of your life where God may be suggesting that you "clear out some forest" so that your life might be more useful in his service?

3. Reflect on these words from verse 18: "though they are strong, you can drive them out." Those words reveal Joshua's confidence in Joseph's descendants. Can you hear Jesus speaking those words to you in your life situation? Is there a formidable task or issue that you face now? Will you trust Jesus "drive it out" for you?

"Canaanites" refers to the people living in the land of Canaan, the native name of Palestine—the land that was promised to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 12:6-7 and Exodus 6:4. In this section, one of the concerns aired to Joshua by the descendants of Joseph was that the remaining Canaanites had superior military equipment—"the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots."

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