

# 9. The Northern Campaign – The Land at Rest

*Quote: “But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee: That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.”*

*Deuteronomy 20:17-18*

## Verse By Verse Bible Marking:

**JOSHUA 11:1** - **“Jabin”** means “wise”. He was wise in the things of this world. See **1 Cor 1:20-21; 25-29**.

**JOSHUA 11:4** - **“much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude”** - Josephus says there were 300 000 footmen, 109 000 cavalry and 20 000 chariots of iron armed with sharpened scythes fastened to the wheels.

**JOSHUA 11:6** - **“hough”** (also in v9) - Heb ‘akar’ means to ‘hamstring’, thus rendering them useless for war.

**JOSHUA 11:7** - **“So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly”**

- Jerusalem Bible has: “Joshua and all his warriors caught them unawares. . .”. Colour the references to the outcomes of the battles in **Josh 11:11,12,20 and 21**. Use the same colour as you used for this in chapter 10.

**The Horse** - a Biblical symbol for warfare (**Exod 15:1; Prov 21:31; Isa 43:16-17; Jer 8:6, etc.**). As such, it symbolises man's trust in the arm of flesh (**Job 39:19-25**). For this reason, Israel's kings were forbidden to “multiply horses” (**Deut 17:16**). The nation and its leaders were to repudiate the flesh and trust only in Yahweh (**Psa 20:7; 147:10**).  
(Mark the above notes at the bottom or top of Joshua 11. They relate to the horses in v4 and 6)

## “Joshua Made War a Long Time With All Those Kings. . .” (**Josh 11:18**)

The initial warfare continued for a period of seven years (**Josh. 14:7, 10**) – This is typical of the 7000 years during which Yahweh has waged war on King Sin. This will be accomplished when the last enemy - Death is destroyed (**1 Cor 15:25-28**).

Mark at the top or bottom of your Bible in Joshua 11:

In the main, the Israelites became fed up with the demands of warfare. They faltered, compromised and gave up the struggle ([Josh 13:13](#); [15:63](#); [16:10](#); [17:12-13](#); [18:3](#)).

They failed to appreciate that the warfare of faith can never be abandoned until the final victory is attained.

For true servants of Yahweh, there can be no compromise with that which is ungodly.

"Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ", pleaded the apostle Paul ([2 Tim. 2:3](#)).

"He who patiently endures unto the end, will be saved", said Christ ([Mat. 24:13](#) *Diag.*; cp. [Rom. 2:7](#); [Mat. 10:22-23](#); [Jas. 5:8-11](#)).

## Why God Was Just in Destroying the Canaanites

Mark at the top or bottom of Joshua 11 or 12:

We need to see things from God's point of view.

1. [Genesis 15:16](#) shows that the nations of Canaan were already in iniquity in the time of Abraham. Their iniquity came to its fullness in Joshua's time – 400 years later. It was characterised by idolatry, immorality and perverseness of the sort condemned in [Romans 1](#).
2. Their children knew nothing else. They were the seed of a generation of serpents (cp [Exod 20:5](#)). The first 5 years of a child's life have been shown to determine attitudes and behavioural patterns. Children who are the products of such a generation cannot be changed, and would only corrupt the nation of Israel.
3. To preserve these nations would have been to bring ruin to Israel. They would have been tempted, distracted, and corrupted by the evil influence of their wickedness ([Deut 7:1-6](#); [8:19](#); [20:17-18](#)) as ultimately happened because of Israel's folly ([Num 33:55](#); [Jud 2:2-3](#)).

We have been commanded to separate from the world around us for the same reason: "the whole world lieth in wickedness" – [1 John 5:19](#).

The time is coming when like Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ and his saints will destroy the wicked first from the land of Israel, then ultimately the whole world ([Psa 149:5-9](#); [Zech 14:3,5,21](#); [Rev 2:26-27](#); [John 18:36](#)).