



Step Up with Joshua
**BECAUSE THE
LORD...**

THIS IS A
TIME TO
STEP UP



“Have I not
commanded
you? Be strong
and courageous.
Do not be
afraid; do not be
discouraged, for
the Lord your
God will be with
you wherever
you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9

... LAST TIME IN STEP UP WITH JOSHUA...

- 5 Kings made a treaty against Israel (& Gibeon)
- God moved miraculously to bring about an even greater victory than they would otherwise have seen
- The Lord's strength is seen even through Israel's mistake



“SURELY
THE LORD
WAS
FIGHTING
FOR
ISRAEL!”



- Following on from the victory at Gibeon, Joshua led the people to victory over the southern cities and then subsequently over Northern territories in Canaan
- The Lord was with them wherever they went as He had promised
- He promises us His presence and in the long run we will always see His purposes fulfilled
- The 'Promised Land'...



“7 Here is a list of the kings of the land that Joshua and the Israelites conquered on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir. Joshua gave their lands as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel according to their tribal divisions.”

“8 The lands included the hill country, the western foothills, the Arabah, the mountain slopes, the wilderness and the Negev. These were the lands of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. These were the kings:”

JOSHUA 12

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| ⁹ the king of Jericho | one |
| the king of Ai (near Bethel) | one |
| ¹⁰ the king of Jerusalem | one |
| the king of Hebron | one |
| ¹¹ the king of Jarmuth | one |
| the king of Lachish | one |
| ¹² the king of Eglon | one |
| the king of Gezer | one |
| ¹³ the king of Debir | one |
| the king of Geder | one |
| ¹⁴ the king of Hormah | one |
| the king of Arad | one |
| ¹⁵ the king of Libnah | one |
| the king of Adullam | one |
| ¹⁶ the king of Makkedah | one |
| the king of Bethel | one |
| ¹⁷ the king of Tappuah | one |
| the king of Hopher | one |
| ¹⁸ the king of Aphek | one |
| the king of Lasharon | one |
| ¹⁹ the king of Madon | one |
| the king of Hazor | one |
| ²⁰ the king of Shimron Meron | one |
| the king of Akshaph | one |
| ²¹ the king of Taanach | one |
| the king of Megiddo | one |
| ²² the king of Kedesh | one |
| the king of Jokneam in Carmel | one |
| ²³ the king of Dor (in Naphoth Dor) | one |
| the king of Goyim in Gilgal | one |
| ²⁴ the king of Tirzah | one |
| thirty-one kings in all. | |

JOSHUA 12

- It is good to record and mark the victories the Lord gives
- The mighty God is the King above all kings
- No earthly government is greater than His!
- Our battles may not be the same kind as Joshua's but we need to know God's victory in our lives every day



SCRIPTURE
REVEALS A
THE LORD
TO BE A
MIGHTY
WARRIOR



“2 The Lord is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

“13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” 14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.””

“13 The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.”

ISAIAH 42

“17 The Lord your
God is with you,
the Mighty
Warrior who
saves. He will
take great delight
in you; in his love
he will no longer
rebuke you, but
will rejoice over
you with singing.”

ZEPHANIAH 3

SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS...

- Did God initiate a genocide?
- Is God violent?
- As The Lord's people should we be taking territory today through military action?



CONTEXT IS VITAL

- This was the Land God had promised to His people
- The Canaanite culture in the land was highly corrupted and idolatrous
- This was a calling for God's people in a specific time and for a particular purpose



OUR OWN CONTEXT IS VITAL

- We are to view all scripture through Jesus lenses
- Jesus' revealed we are to was to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)
 - He is the 'Prince of Peace' yet also said He did not come to bring peace but a sword (Matthew 10:34)
- Jesus was not shy to express righteous anger when necessary
 - He clears the temple (John 13) and again (Matthew 21)
 - He calls out hypocrites (Matthew 23)



- The Lord is the God of righteousness and of justice (Psalm 89:14)
- The land promised to Abraham had become a place of godless immorality and perverse violence
- And so He leads the Israelites to take the land and calls them to righteousness and justice



“ 14 Righteousness
and justice are
the foundation of
your throne; love
and faithfulness
go before you.”

PSALM 89

- There was room for redemption making peace with God and His people
 - Rahab
 - The Gibeonites
- But the Canaanite kings rose up against the Israelites in defence of their evil cultural and religious practices
- Certain aspects of the story may not need to be understood literally
 - ‘All that breathed’ / ‘completely destroyed’ yet we know Canaanites remained
 - Hyperbole: common in battle reports



THE STORY OF THE CANAANITES IS A DIFFICULT ONE TO RECKON WITH. WE DO WELL TO LET THE BIBLE SPEAK FOR ITSELF AND EVEN ALLOW OUR QUESTIONS AT TIMES TO REMAIN UNANSWERED. GOD IS RESCUING PEOPLE FROM EVERY TRIBE. HE IS ENDING ALL SIN AND UNBELIEF (EVEN IN OUR OWN HEARTS) AND HE IS ULTIMATELY DOING IT THROUGH THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF HIS SON. WHEN WE WRESTLE WITH STORIES LIKE THIS, WE MUST COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE JUDGE OF THE EARTH WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHT. THIS IS A SURE AND CERTAIN PROMISE.

MIKE LEAKE:

WHO WERE THE CANAANITES, AND WHY DID GOD ORDER THEIR DESTRUCTION?

- For Joshua and Israel, their journey in inheriting the promised land was a journey in seeing the power of God's hand
- Their biggest lesson was realising that every battle and victory won was only because God was with them as He had promised



**‘BECAUSE
THE LORD’**



“42 All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.”

JOSHUA 10

WHAT IS
YOUR
'BECAUSE
THE LORD'
STORY?



- If you can't think of one, or don't have one yet then know that if you walk with Him there will be battles, and if you trust in Him there will be victories
- In every victory there will be a 'because the Lord' story



WHAT IS
YOUR
'BECAUSE
THE LORD'
OPPORTUNITY?



- The ultimate ‘because The Lord’ story has already been written for all of us...
- Because the Lord... took on flesh, was tempted in every way, was sinless, declared and demonstrated God’s Kingdom, died a sinners death on the cross in our place, rose again from the grave, ascended to Heaven and sent us the Holy Spirit



LIKE JOSHUA,
WE CAN BE
STRONG AND
COURAGEOUS,
NOT IN OUR
OWN MERIT BUT
'BECAUSE THE
LORD' IS WITH
US AND IS
FIGHTING FOR US



RESPOND

- Bring to mind an image that depicts the biggest trial or challenge you are facing
- Now imagine yourself with the might of the commander of Heaven's armies by your side
- Commit the battle to the Lord and prioritise His presence

