



Pointers and questions on
JOSHUA 1-12

Session 9

11:1 – 12:24

Cleaning up in the north

Summary

11:1-23 The kings of northern Canaan join forces to oppose the Israelites, but Joshua enjoys success in battle and defeats them completely.

12:1-24 Chapter 12 lists in a systematic manner all the kings defeated so far, from those east of the Jordan to those most recently conquered.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Joshua has been working to an overall strategy: driving through the centre of Canaan to separate north from south, then cleaning up first in the south, then in the north. Do *you* have an overall strategy for your Christian development over, say, the next five years?
2. Joshua hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots (11:9). That prevented them being used against Israel in the future. What tokens of their past life might Christians sometimes hang on to, which the enemy can use to trouble them later on?
3. According to 11:18, how long did the conquest take up to this point? What does this tell us about our own battles against personal sins and character-weaknesses?
4. The LORD hardened their hearts (11:20). Talk about this difficult statement.
5. Who were the Anakites mentioned in 11:21? For the answer look back to Numbers 13:33 and Deuteronomy 9:2. Are there any daunting Anakites in your life? What are your fears about them? Do you really believe they can be overcome?
6. A few Anakites were spared – a mistake on Joshua's part. Note the names of the cities where a few were allowed to survive, and see who came from one of them to cause trouble later on, as described in 1 Samuel 17. Talk about the temptation we all face to deal less than decisively with the giants in our own lives.
7. Chapter 12 is a kind of inventory, a more detailed list of all the cities conquered by the Israelites. What would you say is the value of such a list? Have you ever thought of compiling a list of, say, your personal victories, milestones in your Christian life, or answers to prayer?

