

## **Dr. David Howard, Joshua - Ruth, Session 16, Joshua 11-12 – Northern Campaign, Summary Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 16, Northern Campaign, Summary, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This lecture excerpt from Dr. David Howard's series on Joshua and Ruth focuses on chapters 11 and 12 of the Book of Joshua. **Chapter 11 details the Northern Campaign**, including the decisive battle against King Jabin of Hazor, highlighting God's role in Israel's victory and the relatively limited destruction of Canaanite cities. **Chapter 12 serves as an appendix**, providing a list of conquered kings and territories, emphasizing the completeness of Israel's conquest and setting the stage for the land distribution in subsequent chapters. The lecture also discusses the likely timeframe of the conquest, suggesting it spanned several years, and explores the theological implications of God's actions, specifically the concept of "hardening hearts." Finally, the lecture connects the theme of rest promised to Israel with its later interpretations.

**2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 16 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Joshua-Ruth).**



**Howard\_Josh\_Ruth  
\_Session16.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 16, Joshua 11-12 – Northern Campaign, Summary

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Howard\_Josh\_Ruth\_EN\_Session16\_Northern.pdf":

#### **Briefing Document: Joshua 11-12 - Northern Campaign and Summary**

**Overview:** This session focuses on Joshua chapters 11 and 12, covering the northern campaign and providing a summary of the conquests. It emphasizes the themes of obedience, divine intervention, and the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. Chapter 11 details the defeat of a northern coalition of Canaanite kings, while chapter 12 serves as a summary and appendix, listing the conquered kings and territories.

#### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

- **Coalition of Canaanite Kings:** Chapter 11 depicts another coalition of Canaanite kings, this time from the north, led by Jabin of Hazor. This echoes the patterns seen in chapters 9 (hill country) and 10 (southern kings), highlighting a recurring opposition to Israel. The scale of the coalition suggests a widespread perception of threat posed by the Israelites.
- *"So, if you open your Bibles to that chapter, as we have seen and mentioned several times, chapters 9, 10, and 11 go together in the sense that each of them begins with a coalition of Canaanite kings coming against Israel."*
- **Imposing Challenge and Divine Intervention:** The Canaanite forces are described as a massive horde, "like the sand that is on the seashore," with numerous horses and chariots. This highlights the daunting nature of the challenge facing Israel. However, God assures Joshua of victory and instructs him to hamstring the horses and burn the chariots, demonstrating divine intervention in the battle.
- *"Notice in verse 4, that they come with a great horde of people, a number like the sand that is in the seashore, and with very many horses and chariots."*
- *"So again, God speaks to Joshua in verse 6 and again encourages him, and tells him don't be afraid. Tomorrow, he will give them all over to Israel and hamstringing their horses, burn their chariots, etc."*

- **Brief Battle Account and Selective Destruction:** Unlike previous battles, the account of the northern campaign in chapter 11 lacks detailed battle descriptions. The burning of Hazor is significant, as it's one of only three cities specifically mentioned as being burned by Israel (along with Jericho and Ai). This indicates that Israel did not engage in widespread city destruction.
- *"Interestingly that the way the battle is told, there are almost no details of the battle told here in a way that had been told, for example, at the Battle of Gibeon in chapter 10 or Battle of Jericho or Ai. It's just mentioned in very brief summary details."*
- *"And we mentioned in earlier context that when you look carefully, it's only three cities that are mentioned that Israel burned specifically, Jericho, Ai, and now Hazor."*
- **Obedience:** The emphasis on Joshua's obedience to God's commands is a recurring theme throughout the book. Joshua's complete adherence to the Lord's instructions is highlighted, solidifying his role as a divinely appointed leader.
- *"Notice what it says in verse 15. Another example of obedience. We've mentioned the theme of obedience throughout the book. And just as the Lord had commanded Moses a servant, so Moses commanded Joshua. And so, Joshua did. He left nothing undone that the Lord had commanded Moses."*
- **Long War and the Hardening of Hearts:** While the narrative may appear to describe swift victories, verse 18 clarifies that the war with the Canaanite kings was protracted, lasting a considerable time (estimated at 5-7 years for the battle phase). The hardening of the Canaanites' hearts by the Lord is discussed, drawing a parallel to the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in Exodus. This action allowed God to deliver judgment on the Canaanites for their wickedness. However, even in this, there were exceptions like Rahab and the Gibeonites who chose to side with God and his people.
- *"And verse 18 says Joshua made war a long time with all these kings."*
- *"And it says the fact that these other cities did not make peace was that it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts. So they should come against Israel to battle in order that they should be devoted to destruction."*
- **Rest from War:** Following the defeat of the Anakim, the land is said to have had "rest from war," a recurring theme that was initially promised back in Deuteronomy. It was a temporary rest, not a permanent spiritual rest, but rather

a cessation of conflict. It sets the stage for the next phase of the book which concerns the distribution of land.

- *"And so, Joshua took the whole land, verse 23, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel. And then it says, the final statement of verse 11 says, the land had rest from war."*
- **Summary and Catalog of Conquest:** Chapter 12 acts as an appendix or wrap-up of the first section of Joshua, listing the kings and territories conquered by Israel, first under Moses (east of the Jordan) and then under Joshua. The list of 31 defeated kings is presented as evidence of the Israelite conquest. This chapter serves as a factual record to demonstrate that the Lord fulfilled his promises.
- *"But it's interesting because chapter 12 kind of forms a wrap-up, an appendix to the whole first section of the book... this chapter kind of repeats it from a different angle, namely giving the list of the kings and the territories that were conquered."*
- *"When you count them up, it's 31 kings. That's mentioned in verse 24, but it goes carefully, one by one."*
- **Transition to Land Distribution:** The conclusion of chapter 12 transitions the narrative from conquest to the distribution of land to the tribes of Israel. Joshua, now in a position of authority, is tasked with giving the land title (though the land is ultimately God's). Chapter 12 lays the groundwork for the land distribution detailed in chapters 13-21.

**Significance:** This section of Joshua highlights the completion of the major military campaigns in the conquest of Canaan. It reinforces the themes of God's faithfulness to his promises, Israel's obedience, and the divine power underlying the nation's success. It is also a transition point, moving from the narrative of conquest to the administrative task of allocating land.

**Conclusion:** Chapters 11 and 12 of Joshua, as explained in this teaching session, provide a comprehensive view of the northern campaign and the overall conquest. The brief battle description is contrasted with the emphasis on God's role in the victory and the careful summary of the conquered territories. This sets the stage for the final portions of the book where the focus shifts to the distribution of the land and the establishment of Israel in its new home.

## 4. Study Guide: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 16, Joshua 11-12 – Northern Campaign, Summary

### Joshua 11-12: Northern Campaign and Summary Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each, based on the provided source material.

1. Who was the lead king that opposed Israel in the northern campaign, and from what city did he rule?
2. Describe the size and composition of the Canaanite army in the north as portrayed in the text.
3. What specific action did God command Joshua to take regarding the captured horses and chariots?
4. How does the narrative of the battle in the north differ from those of Jericho, Ai, or Gibeon?
5. Besides Hazor, what two other cities are mentioned as having been burned by the Israelites?
6. According to the text, why are there limited archaeological traces of widespread destruction by the Israelites?
7. What does the text suggest about how long it took the Israelites to conquer the land of Canaan?
8. What reason is given for why the Canaanites did not make peace with Israel, except for the Gibeonites?
9. What two passages in the book of Joshua mention that "the land had rest from war?"
10. What is the significance of chapter 12 in the book of Joshua?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The lead king was Jabin (or Yabin) of Hazor. His city was a very prominent one in the northern part of the country, farther north than the Sea of Galilee, and has been excavated in the 20th century.

2. The Canaanite army was described as a great horde, like the sand on the seashore, and had many horses and chariots. It was a coalition from different parts of the country, not solely from the north.
3. God commanded Joshua to hamstring the captured horses and burn the chariots. This was a symbolic act of destroying the enemy's power.
4. Unlike the detailed accounts of the battles of Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon, the northern campaign's battle is summarized with few specific details. The narrative focuses on the obedience of Joshua and the victory given by God.
5. The two other cities mentioned as burned by the Israelites were Jericho and Ai, not including Hazor. These three were mentioned explicitly in the text.
6. There are limited archaeological traces of widespread destruction because the Israelites primarily chased out or killed inhabitants, then moved into and inherited the cities, rather than systematically destroying them.
7. Although the text is condensed, the battles likely took five to seven years. Adding in the period of land distribution, the book of Joshua covers an estimated 25 to 30 years.
8. The text states that God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites so they would not make peace and thus be devoted to destruction without mercy. This is similar to the narrative about God hardening Pharaoh's heart in Exodus.
9. The first time is at the end of chapter 11 (verse 23), where it says "the land had rest from war," and then in chapter 14, verse 15, at the end of that chapter.
10. Chapter 12 serves as a wrap-up or appendix to the first section of the book. It lists the conquered kings and territories, reinforcing the idea that the land was given by God through Joshua, and setting the stage for the land distribution described in subsequent chapters.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Develop a well-organized essay responding to each of the following prompts. Be sure to draw from the provided text.

1. Discuss the recurring theme of obedience in the book of Joshua, specifically in the context of the northern campaign, and how it relates to the Israelites' success.
2. Analyze the theological implications of God's hardening of the Canaanites' hearts and how this relates to the rest that was promised by God.
3. Compare and contrast the narrative of the battles in the south (chapter 10) with the narrative of the northern campaign (chapter 11), paying attention to details and their significance.
4. Explain the strategic and symbolic significance of the Israelite's burning of Hazor and why other cities were spared.
5. Examine the dual purpose of Chapter 12 in Joshua - both to look back at the victories, and to lay the foundation for the land distribution to come.

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Anakim/Anakites:** A group of people in the hill country who were defeated by Joshua in the final battle of the northern campaign.

**Baal Gad:** A location in the Valley of Lebanon, mentioned as part of the territory conquered by Joshua in the north.

**Canaan:** The land promised to the Israelites, inhabited by various peoples, which they were instructed to conquer.

**Chariot:** A wheeled, horse-drawn vehicle used in warfare, representing a major military power of the Canaanites, equated in the text with modern tanks.

**Gibeonites:** Inhabitants of Gibeon who, unlike most Canaanites, made a treaty with Israel and were spared destruction.

**Haram:** The Hebrew word for "devoted to destruction," indicating that the Canaanites were to be utterly destroyed, though exceptions were permitted by God.

**Hazor/Hatzor:** A large and important Canaanite city in the north, ruled by King Jabin, which was captured and burned by the Israelites.

**Jabin/Yabin:** The King of Hazor who led the northern coalition against Israel.

**Merkabah:** The Hebrew word for chariot, also used as the name for the main battle tank in the modern Israeli army.

**Mount Hermon:** A mountain in the far north of Canaan, used to define the northern boundary of the conquered territories.

**Tell:** A mound formed by the accumulation of layers of settlement over time, common in the ancient Near East.

**Transjordan tribes:** The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh who were initially settled on the east side of the Jordan River.



## 5. FAQs on Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 16, Joshua 11-12 -- Northern Campaign, Summary, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on Joshua 11-12: Northern Campaign and Summary

1. **What was the primary focus of the battles described in Joshua 11?** The battles in Joshua 11 centered on the northern campaign of the Israelites against a coalition of Canaanite kings led by Jabin, the king of Hazor. This coalition included forces from various parts of the country, indicating the widespread fear of the Israelites. The focus of the battle is the vast horde of the Canaanite army which God helps the Israelites overcome.
2. **How does the narrative in Joshua 11 describe the military strength of the Canaanite forces?** The Canaanite forces are described as a vast horde, numerous "like the sand on the seashore," and equipped with many horses and chariots. The text emphasizes the impressive nature of their army, highlighting the challenging odds the Israelites faced, making God's help in victory more impressive. The chariot is compared to a modern day battle tank, demonstrating their impressive nature.
3. **What role did God play in the Israelite victory in the northern campaign?** God directly encouraged Joshua not to be afraid and promised victory, explicitly stating He would deliver the Canaanites into the hands of the Israelites. God directed them to hamstring the horses and burn the chariots of the enemy. The narrative emphasizes that it was the Lord who "gave them into the hand of Israel," underscoring that the victory was divinely granted.
4. **What is significant about the destruction of Hazor in Joshua 11?** Hazor is one of only three cities, along with Jericho and Ai, that the Israelites are specifically said to have burned. This is important because it indicates that the Israelites did not generally destroy the cities they conquered but instead, inhabited and inherited them. The destruction of Hazor is thus an exception and holds historical importance.
5. **How does the text emphasize Joshua's obedience to God's commands?** The text repeatedly stresses Joshua's obedience, stating he did everything the Lord had commanded Moses. This theme is woven throughout the narrative, highlighting Joshua's faithful leadership and commitment to following divine instructions, reflecting an important theme throughout the book of Joshua.

6. **How long did the conquest described in Joshua take and what does the text tell us about this?** While the text presents the battles as if they happened quickly, the passage suggests that the conquest was not swift, with scholars estimating it took between five to seven years for the main battle phase. This is supported by the statement in Joshua 11:18, which notes that Joshua "made war a long time with all these kings," which reveals that the land conquest was a long and complicated process, rather than one quick and simple campaign. The text may also indicate an additional 25 years until the distribution was done.
7. **What does Joshua 11:20 mean by saying that God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites?** The hardening of the Canaanites' hearts is presented as a divine action to ensure they would fight against Israel, leading to their destruction. This is explained as God leaving them to their own inclinations as they already were inclined to oppose Israel and its God. God allowed them to continue on their chosen path. The text does note that exceptions to this are allowed, as seen in Rahab and the Gibeonites, allowing for some Canaanites to turn to God.
8. **What is the purpose of Joshua 12 and how does it connect to the rest of the book?** Joshua 12 acts as a summary or appendix, listing the kings and territories conquered by the Israelites, both those conquered under Moses and under Joshua. This chapter provides a detailed account of the land taken, offering the reader data and raw numbers which acts as tangible proof of their ownership of the land. The chapter previews the upcoming distribution of the land to the tribes of Israel and solidifies the narrative of their conquest, giving them concrete information of what they had won through God's help.