

Joshua 11

The Final Push



The Battle of the Waters of Merom

The Battle of Hazor

Fighting the Giants

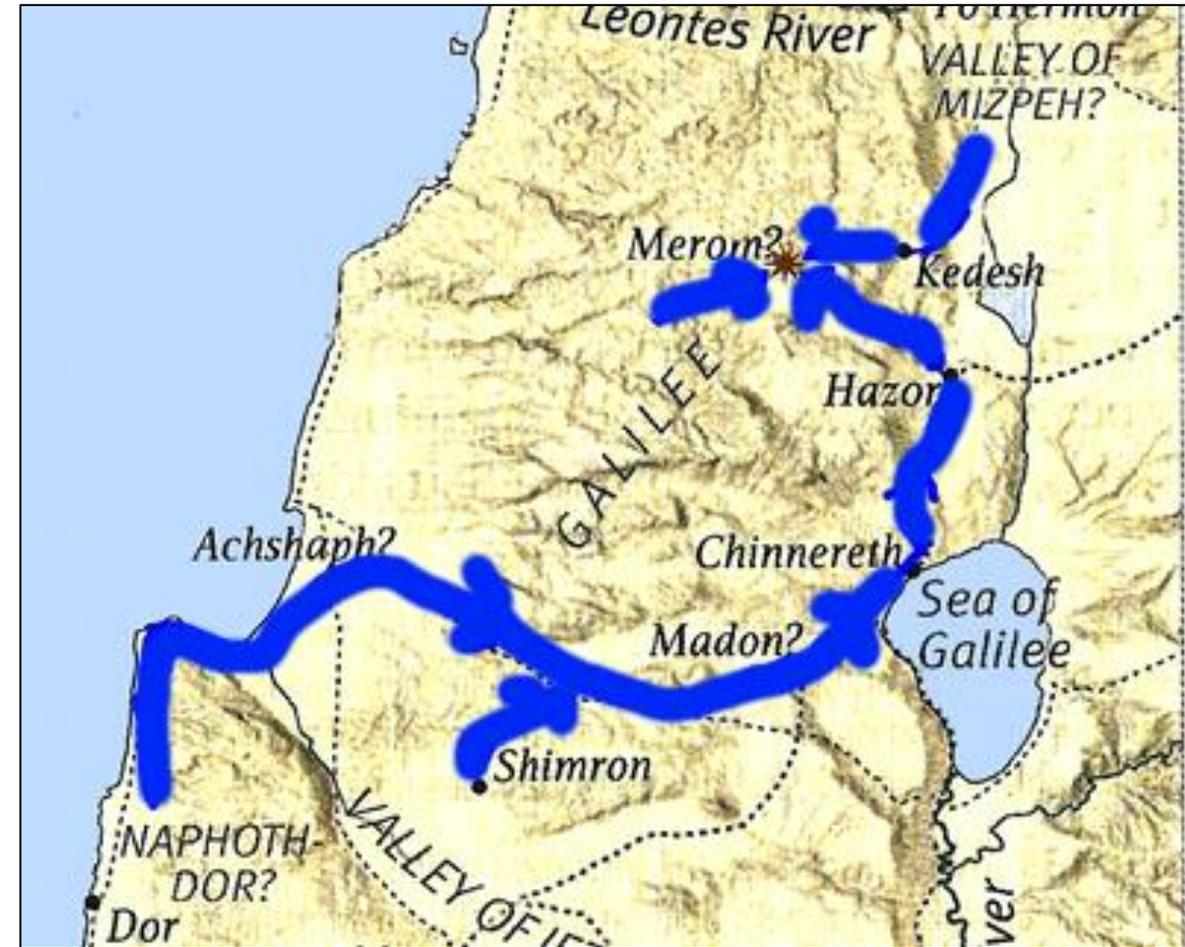
Hazor was a part of an important trading route and a strategic centre in northern Canaan.



The opposition gathered together to attack:-

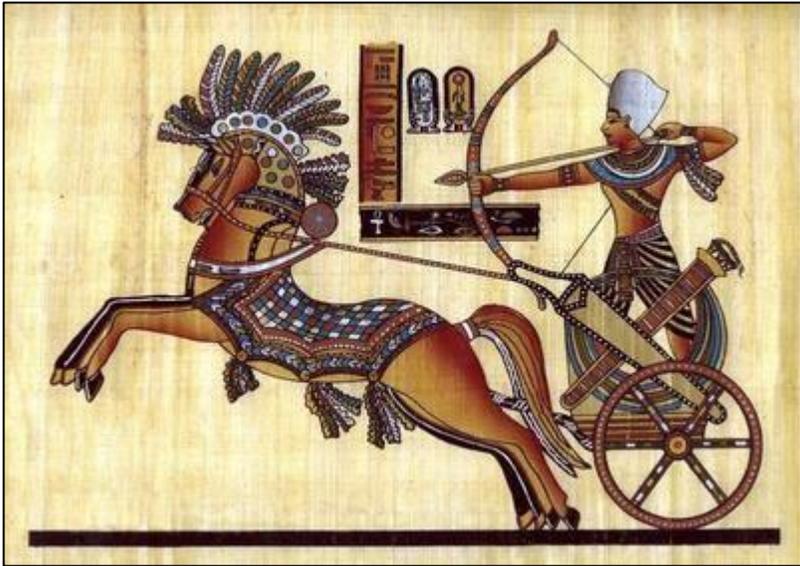
When Jabin king of Hazor heard of this, he sent word to Jobab king of Madon, to the kings of Shimron and Acshaph, and to the **northern** kings who were in the mountains, in the Arabah **south** of Kinnereth,

In the **western** foothills and in Naphoth Dor on **the west**; to the Canaanites in the **east and west**; to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites and Jebusites in the **hill country**; and to the Hivites **below Hermon** in the region of Mizpah.



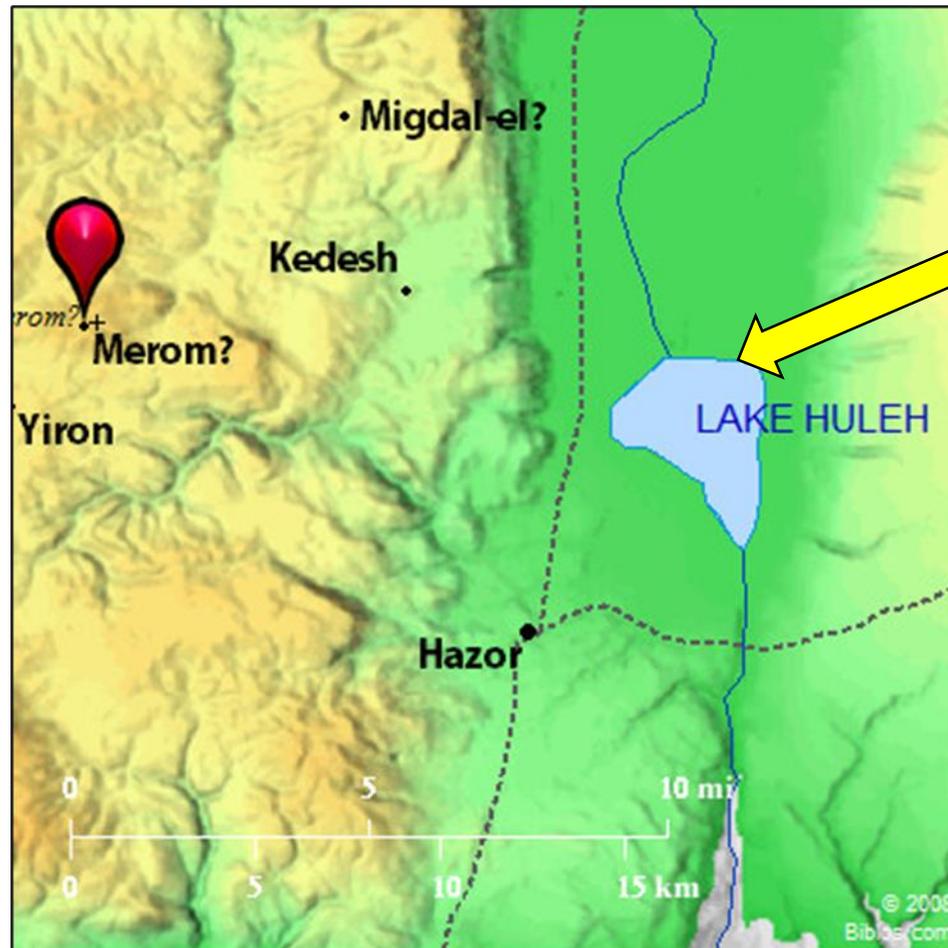
The size of the opposition :-

They came out with all their troops and a large number of horses and chariots--**a huge army**, as numerous as the sand on the seashore.



The location :-

All these kings joined forces and made camp together at the Waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.



Formerly know as
Lake Merom

The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain. v6

How did God encourage Joshua?



What should you do when the odds seem impossible?

You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.” v6



Deuteronomy 17:16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself.



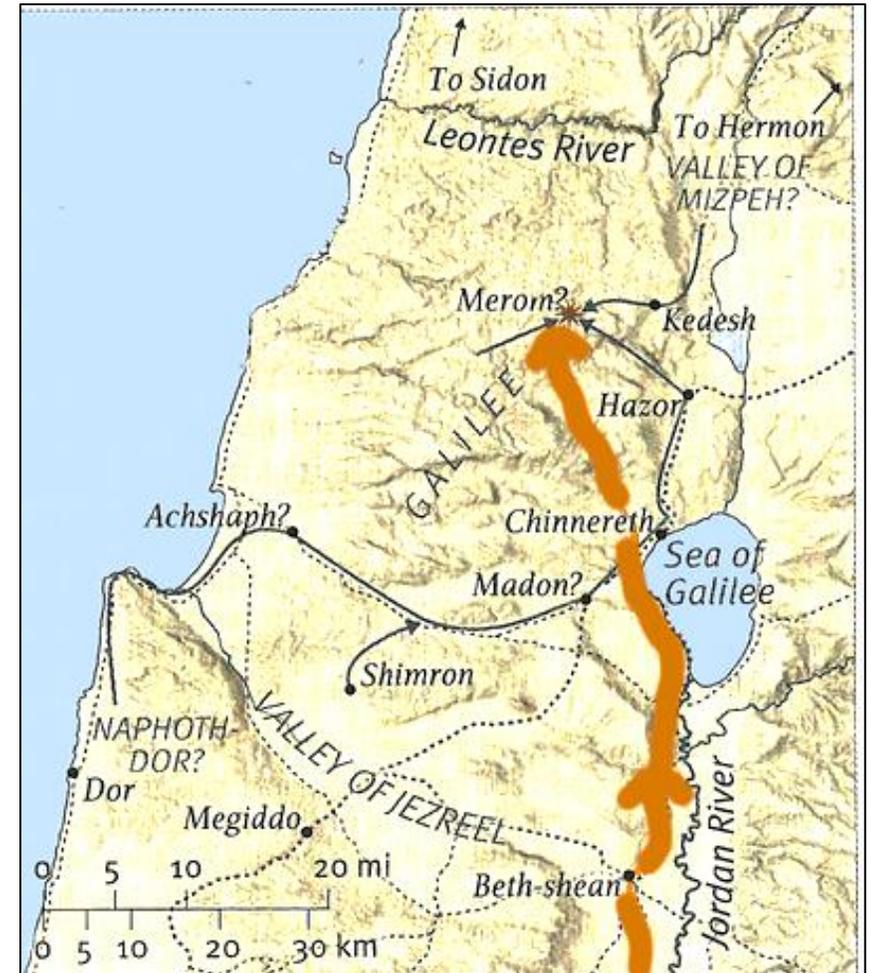
Psalm 20:7-8 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

So Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel. v7-8

SO (and) ...

He believed what God had said and moved fast
A surprise attack

The army attacked - God gave the victory



They defeated them and pursued them all the way to Greater Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of Mizpah on the east, until no survivors were left. **Joshua did to them as the LORD had directed..** He hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots. vs8-9

COMPLETE VICTORY

Faith and obedience



The Battle of Hazor

At that time Joshua turned back and captured Hazor and put **its king** to the sword. (Hazor had been the head of all these kingdoms.) v10



A suggested reconstruction



A Cuneiform tablet from Hazor, addressed to the Jabin the king.

Jabin was a title similar to Pharaoh

Everyone in it they put to the sword. They totally destroyed them, not sparing anything that breathed, v11



Hazor was ten times the size of Jebus (Jerusalem) - 200 acres with a population of 15000-20000 people. It “was the head of all those kingdoms” in Canaan.

Genesis 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.

Hazor was rebuilt and destroyed several times subsequent to Joshua’s time.

and he burned up Hazor itself. v11

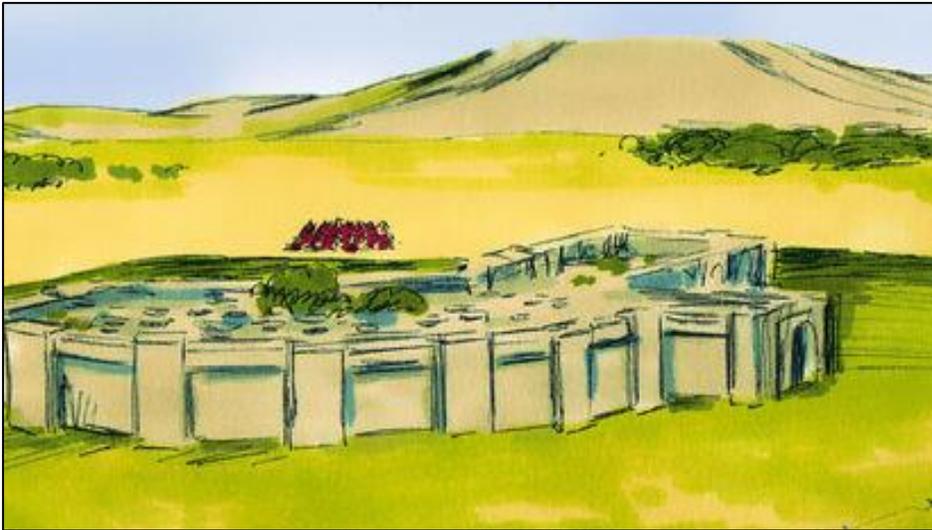


The ash layer from Hazor's fiery destruction dates to the time of Joshua's destruction of the city.

"The Hazor of Joshua's day clearly was destroyed by a massive conflagration."

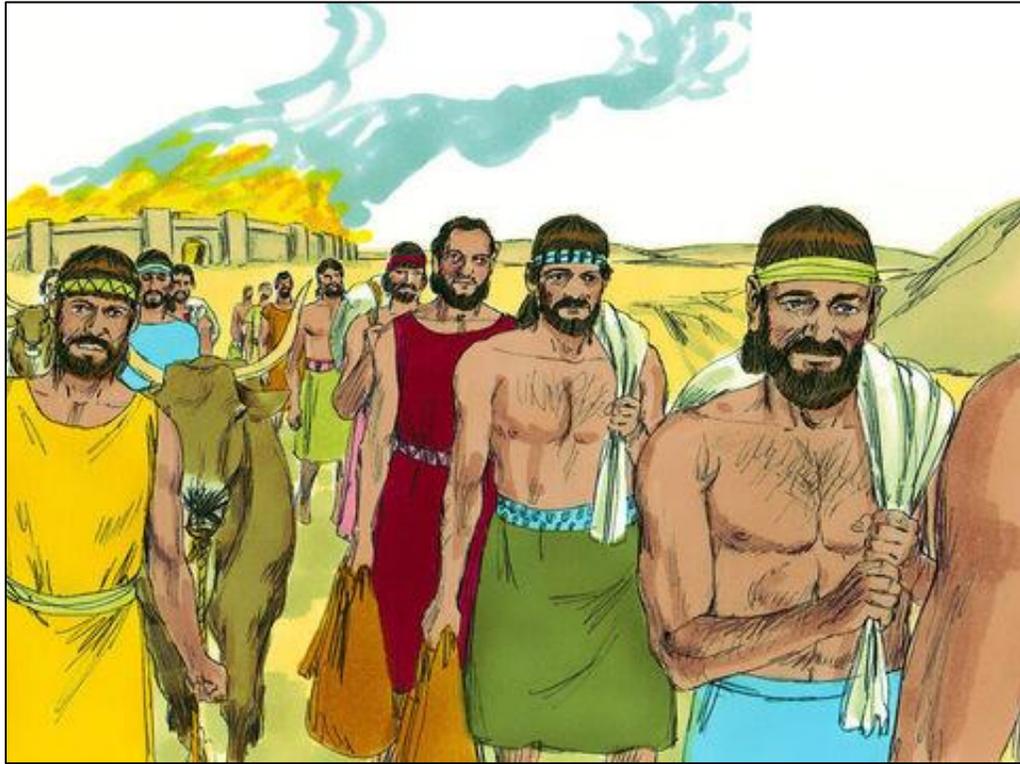
biblearchaeologyreport.com

Joshua took all these royal cities and their kings and put them to the sword. He totally destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on their mounds--except Hazor, which Joshua burned. vs12-13



Deuteronomy 6:10-12 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, .. to give you--a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build,

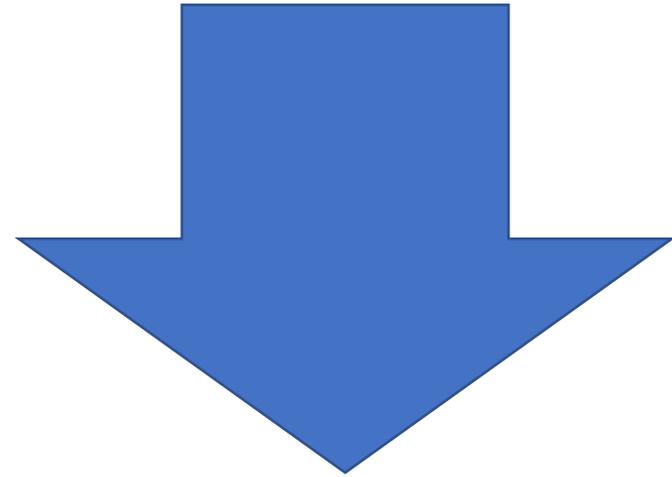
The Israelites carried off for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but all the people they put to the sword until they completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone that breathed. v14

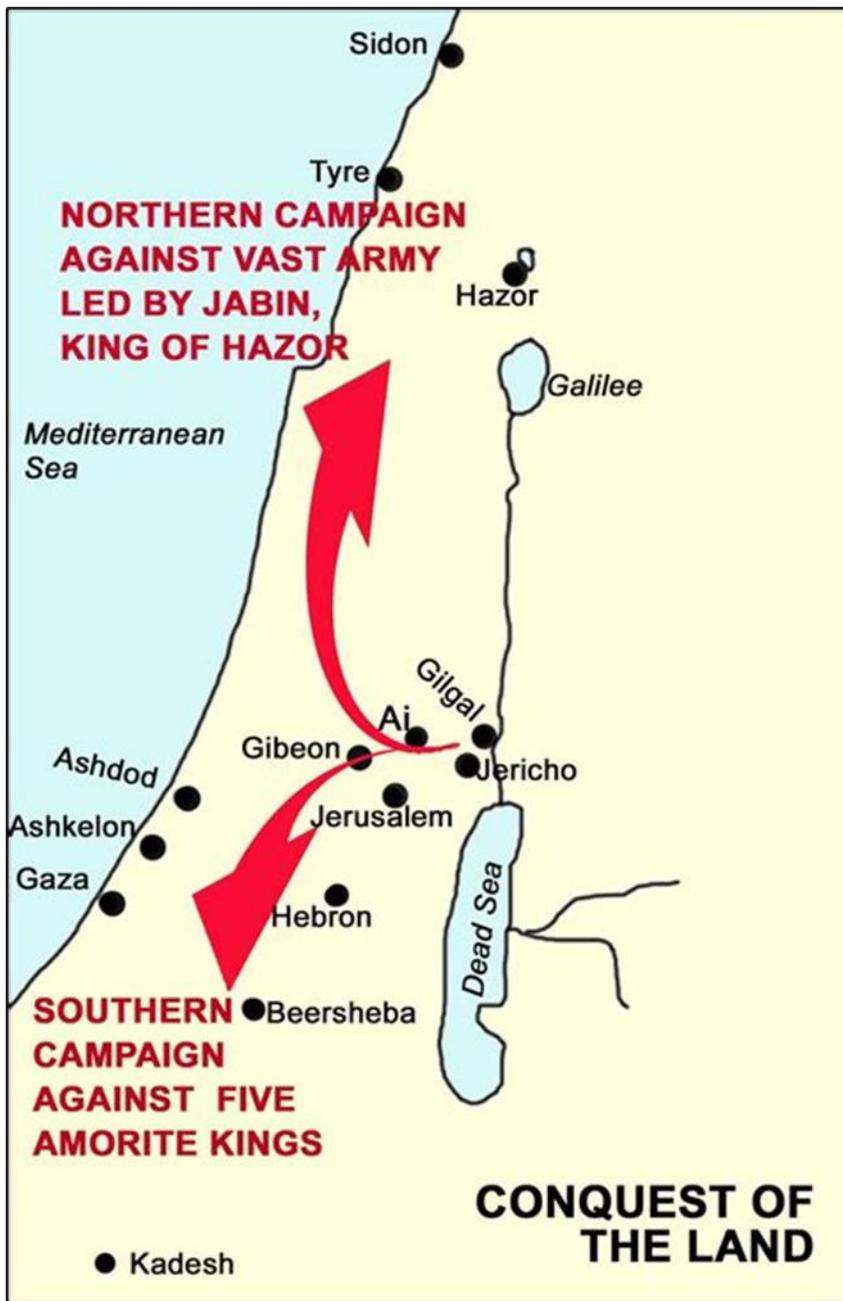


Deuteronomy 6:10-12 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, .. to give you--...houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant--then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD,



As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses. v15





So Joshua took this entire land.. the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death. vs16-17

Joshua waged war against all these kings **for a long time.** v18



Perseverance and patience needed.

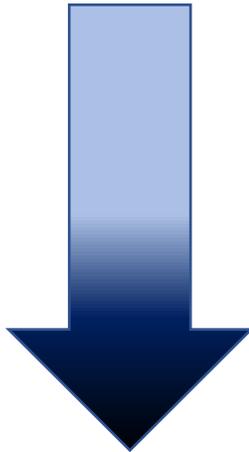
It is estimated from Joshua 14:7
that it took about 7 years!

A lesson from Bible narratives:
Things probably take longer than you think?

Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses. v19-20



**HARDENED
HEART**



Sin and rebellion leads to hardening

God gave them up (cf. Romans 1)

God hardened (allowed them to resist)

He NEVER violated their will.

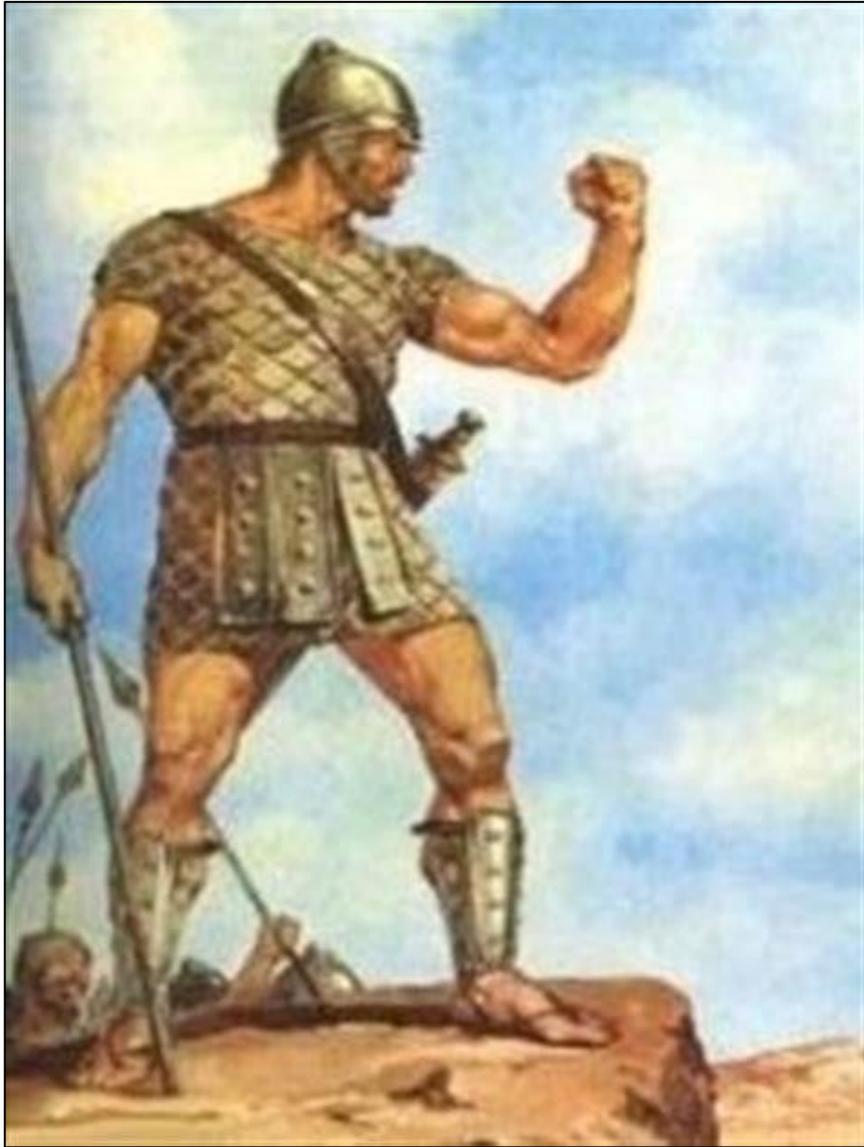
Fighting the Giants



Things often get harder as you go on

The giants were the ones the previous generation of Israelites had feared.

Numbers 13:32-33 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."



At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country.. from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive. vs21-22

“Giants are dwarfs to Omnipotence”

Matthew Henry

They are out of the country for the present, but they'll be back...



So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. v23

The details of the tribal divisions are given in the later chapters 12 -19

Then the land had rest from war. v23

Was the work completed now?



All the land was now under the 'control' of the Israelites but possession of the different areas was to be the responsibility of the different tribes.

Joshua's faith gave them victory but the seeds of the future failure for Israel had already been sown at Gibeon.

Hebrews 4:8-11 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

Only the Messiah would bring complete and permanent victory.